



Participants in the Third Christian Zionist Congress pray for the victims of this week's terror attacks at the Western Wall yesterday. The group, more than 1,000 strong, marched to the Wall from outside the Chief Rabbinate's headquarters, where a memorial service was held.

# Peres announces anti-terror security measures

A SERIES of actions designed to improve the security situation are to be implemented, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

The closure of the territories will continue, he said. A bus security administration will be established; security forces in Jerusalem and along the Green Line will be beefed up; and pressure will be put on the Palestinian Authority to take stronger action against the terror infrastructure.

Peres told the Labor Knesset faction that he and the Ministerial Committee on Security had agreed on these moves.

In a short meeting with the Labor MKs, Peres said Israel would push the PA to ensure there is only one armed force in the autonomous areas. "It is inconceivable that in a place that has democratic elections and a democratically elected authority, there should be more than one armed force," he said.

"We are not demanding that the PA be responsible for Israel's security, but we do demand that it abide by the agreements between us. According to the agreement, it must outlaw armed terror groups endangering security. We are clear and unequivocal on this and [the decisions] will be implemented in the next few days," Peres said.

The bus security plan, recommended by Yigal Pressler, Peres's

LIAT COLLINS and BILL HUTMAN

adviser on terrorism, includes setting up a special civil guard for buses—perhaps composed of high school students and unemployed newly discharged soldiers—and the use of dogs and high-tech equipment to detect explosives.

Most of the measures Pressler proposed would take place outside the buses themselves, largely at bus stops, since once a suicide bomber is inside a bus, even if detected, he will still be able to blow himself up. "The plan is not meant to take the place of good intelligence work by the General Security Service and army in stopping suicide bombers, but only an additional measure to improve security," a source who attended the ministerial meeting said.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr will coordinate the effort to come up with further recommendations on bus security within 48 hours. "We don't want to give the PA an ultimatum," Barak later told reporters. "I don't think it's effective or appropriate, but it's clear to Yasser Arafat that not only the redeployment from Hebron, but further redeployment, as well as the schedules and modalities of opening the permanent status negotiations and, in a way, even interaction in terms of the free flow of people and goods over the lines has to do with his

efforts at crushing these terrorists." Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reported on his Tuesday night meeting with Arafat, who, he said, appreciates the seriousness of the situation.

The ministers agreed to boost the Internal Security Ministry's budget by NIS 70 million, which will go toward strengthening the security situation in Jerusalem and along the Green Line. Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said this would mark the beginning of instituting his plan for separation between Palestinians and Israelis, which would cost some NIS 250m. Shahal mentioned the dispute between his ministry and the Treasury on the necessary budget, but said: "There's no alternative plan." Shahal's plans include the use of ATVs and sophisticated technological equipment at the 18 crossings.

But the committee statement did not mention that the separation plan was adopted. Rather, it stated, "the minister of public security, finance minister, deputy defense minister, and chief of general staff will meet at the beginning of next week to reach agreement on the issue."

Shahal has previously announced publicly that the plan, which he first proposed about a year ago, would soon be adopted, but Treasury opposition to the cost delayed its implementation.

## Likud offers Levy six slots

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and MK Ariel Sharon last night prepared a written proposal for MK David Levy and his new Geshet Party, offering six safe slots on the Likud-Tsomet list.

It is to be officially delivered to Levy this morning.

Until now, Sharon had been intensively negotiating chiefly with Levy activist David Appel, while Levy's stance was that nothing formal had been offered them and there were no formal negotiations.

According to Sharon, who continued his intensive dealings with Levy's people, he had already secured an agreement in principle, but Levy is insisting on seven of the first 40 slots on the list, the same as Tsomet.

Netanyahu offered six, but also sought to get Tsomet to reduce its representation to equal Levy's.

Optimists in the Likud predicted that a deal would be struck by the end of the week, despite Levy's silence on the subject and heated denials from MK David Magen, his Geshet partner.

Levy is continuing his three-year practice of not mentioning Netanyahu by name and of walking past him in the Knesset without exchanging a word or glancing in his direction.

Former OC Northern Command Yitzhak Mordechai, a friend of

Levy's, made a bid to get Levy to settle for five slots, if he could get Tsomet to do the same.

Tsomet's Doron Shmueli, however, maintained that his party "had already been tested at the polls and entered the 13th Knesset with eight MKs. The polls now predict six seats for us and only two or three for Levy. Why should he get the same as us?"

Netanyahu is caught between the two and cannot afford to have 14 safe slots go to outsiders. If his own reserved first slot, the slots designated for regional primaries, and those reserved for women, immigrants, and minorities are subtracted, then those running in the crowded national primaries will be vying for a mere 16 seats. This could mean that some of the Likud's most respected figures would find themselves out of the next Knesset, replaced by unknowns from Geshet and Tsomet. This could shake up the Likud, and Netanyahu must do what he can to minimize the damage.

He is, however, convinced that this could give him a better shot at the premiership. Recent polls show a dramatic closing of the gap between him and Shimon Peres. According to a Teleset poll for Channel 2, Peres's lead has shrunk to 5% from 13% last week. A Smith poll, commis-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Three arrested for allegedly bribing defense officials

Deals believed to have cost IDF millions of dollars

BILL HUTMAN

THREE military equipment dealers were arrested yesterday by police investigating allegations of a multi-million dollar bribery and fraud case involving private contractors, the Defense Ministry, and the air force.

Sources close to the case said more arrests are expected, including those of ministry officials and army officers. The police and Military Police have been investigating the case for three years, but publication had been banned.

Detained were a Ra'anana man, 51, who owns a company that deals in military equipment, the company's buyer, 38, and a Yavne man, 51, who worked in the past at the ministry's sales warehouse at Tzrifin, and now also works for a military equipment company.

The three are suspected of bribing air force officers and ministry officials to obtain used air force parts at less than market value. Channel 1 reported that among the officers being questioned by Military Police is a lieutenant-colonel.

The IDF lost millions of dollars because of the low cost

sales, according to police. The illegal operation has been going on for many years, police said. The ministry first discovered discrepancies in the used parts sales three years ago, sparking the investigation.

The three suspects, together with other companies, allegedly illegally made deals to keep down bids for the used parts. They also sold the parts abroad without the necessary ministry approval.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz described the case as "very serious."

Police and Military Police confiscated documents from the suspects' homes, from the office in Ra'anana, and from the ministry warehouse, from which computers and programs were also taken in hopes of finding additional information.

On Levy adds: The IDF and Defense Ministry were unsure of how to react to the case. The IDF asked commentators for restraint, stressing that the case was only revealed yesterday, and that apparently mainly civilians were involved, with help from a few officers, perhaps majors, and mid-level Defense Ministry people.

## 14-year-old girl tries to kill ex-boyfriend

AN eighth-grader from Ness Ziona was arrested yesterday on suspicion she tried to murder her former boyfriend, a classmate.

The girl, 14, heard that the boy was spreading rumors about her, went home, got a zip gun made by her father, and returned to school. At the first opportunity, she grabbed the boy by the neck, pointed the gun at his head, and pulled the trigger. Fortunately, the gun failed to fire because of a mechanical defect. A teacher grabbed the girl and took the gun.

When police went to her home, they found several zip guns, all made by her father. The father was arrested for manufacturing weapons illegally.

(lim)

## Diana agrees to divorce Charles

NEWS AGENCIES

LONDON

PRINCESS Diana has agreed to a request for a divorce by Prince Charles, her spokeswoman said yesterday.

A spokeswoman for the princess said that Diana would still be involved in all decisions relating to their two children and will continue to live at Kensington Palace.

A statement released last night by Princess Diana's office said: "The Princess of Wales has agreed to Prince Charles' request for a divorce."

"The Princess will continue to be involved in all decisions relating to the children and will remain at Kensington Palace with offices in St. James's Palace."

"The Princess of Wales will retain the title and be known as Diana Princess of Wales."

## Supreme Court: No jail time for bankers

EVELYN GORDON

actions such as pressuring the Bank of Israel to give the banks credit to continue the manipulation—the banks were justified in believing that the government would make it possible for them to continue meeting their obligations.

Furthermore, he said, it was never proven that the manipulation, though it clearly hurt the banks, hurt them to the point where they were in danger of not being able to meet their obligations.

"But this does not mean the appellants are worthy of praise for their acts," Levine added. "On the contrary: The process they began was irresponsible and dangerous, characterized by a clear preference for the good of the banks... while ignoring the interests of the investors and customers."

Kedmi and Strasberg-Cohen, in contrast, said it was clear from the results of the collapse and the subsequent \$7 billion government bailout that the bank's ability to meet their obligations had been seriously damaged. Nor does the government's support absolve the bankers of responsibility, they said, since dependence on a government bailout is precisely what the law is meant to avoid.

However, all five of the justices agreed that the prison sentences—

11 months for Japhet, eight for Einhorn and Rafael Recanati, and six for Cohen—should be canceled. The fact that all lost their jobs, C the long time that has elapsed since the crimes were committed, and, most of all, the authorities' involvement in all mitigate against a prison term, they said.

The fines imposed, however, will remain in place: NIS 900,000 for Japhet, NIS 600,000 for Einhorn, Rafael Recanati, and Meir, NIS 500,000 for Cohen, NIS 400,000 for Udi Recanati, and NIS 45,000 for Naveh.

The court also set an important precedent regarding the admissibility of evidence collected for a state commission of inquiry in a

criminal trial. The law states that such evidence cannot be used in a criminal proceeding, and the bankers had argued that the entire trial, which was based on the findings of the 1986 Bejski Commission, was illegal.

However, the justices ruled that the legal prohibition refers only to direct use of such evidence. Commission proceedings can be used indirectly, as a guide for a police investigation, they said, as long as the police warn those who are suspects that confirming their testimony to the commission is equivalent to agreeing to its use in court. Any other interpretation of the law, they stated, would produce the undesirable

(Continued on Page 2)

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JAVICO USA

# US senator demands full report on Jewish 'spying' memo

SENATE Intelligence Committee chairman Arlen Specter yesterday dismissed as "outrageous" the Pentagon's response to complaints over a memorandum in which it stated that American Jews are susceptible to recruitment as Israeli agents.

The assistant secretary of defense for command, control, communications, and intelligence, Emmett Paige, Jr., stated in a letter to Specter sent Tuesday night that the memorandum "was not prepared or distributed by the [Defense] Department."

But asked about the matter following a joint hearing on economic espionage held by the intelligence and judiciary committees, Specter said the Pentagon's response "doesn't close the book" on the affair, because Paige has still not revealed either who is "the low-ranking defense official" who authored the report or in what specific incidents Israel is said to have recruited American Jews.

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

Specter also criticized Paige for sending in his reply only on the eve of the hearing and for stating that the Pentagon has still not completed its investigation into the incident.

"I don't understand that. It came from a Department of Defense memorandum. I think it's absolutely outrageous and I'm not too happy about getting a reply at the last minute. I'm not too happy about getting an interim reply. I want a final report on it," he said.

Specter added that the delay in providing a satisfactory response is "part of a cat-and-mouse game. They're delaying and we're pushing. We intend to pursue it. I think it's an important issue for America."

During the hearing, Specter read from the answers provided at a private meeting that

took place February 20 between Paige's deputy Joan A. Dempsey and intelligence committee staff.

"The department can attest that many foreign intelligence services attempt to exploit ethnic or religious ties," Dempsey said at the meeting.

"While the Israelis may have also attempted to exploit ethnic or religious ties with Jewish Americans, it does not follow that those Americans are necessarily any more susceptible to external exploitation than any other class of American citizens.

"The fact that 'ethnic targeting' does not equate to 'ethnic susceptibility' to cultivation by a foreign intelligence service cannot be overstated. Any implication drawn from the [counterintelligence] profile that American Jews would commit treason against the US because of their Jewish heritage would be patently incorrect."

## Labor prepares to take campaign to streets

SARAH HONG

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres yesterday instructed his party's ministers to explain Labor's stance on personal security in every public appearance they make. He also implored them to see to it that pro-Labor demonstrators appear on the streets so as not to "leave the streets to the Likud."

Peres met with the Labor ministerial caucus to discuss the effects of the recent terror attacks on his and the party's electoral prospects. He praised the ministers for what he judged was a very successful series of pronouncements on their part following the terrorist attacks.

The ministers all pointed to the changing polls and cited not only the narrowing gaps, but also ITV's *Mishal Am* program Tuesday night in which, for the first time, the results of a viewer phone-in survey showed Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu in the lead.

Labor's most recent internal polls, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned, also show Peres's lead shrinking significantly.

Party secretary-general Nissim Zvilli said he would organize pro-Labor demonstrations at all of the country's major highway junctions tomorrow. The main slogan will be "We will not allow terror to win." There will also be a daily vigil by Labor youth at the site of Sunday's bus blast in Jerusalem, with placards bearing the same slogan.

Meanwhile, Peres received discouraging news from the haredi sector where, according to Labor sources, the Gerer and Vizhnitzer rebbes have refused to call on their followers not to vote for any secular prime ministerial candidate. Labor had hoped such a message would keep haredim from voting in the race for prime minister. The bulk of the haredi vote is expected to go to Netanyahu.

## Netanyahu: PA must fulfill its undertakings

SARAH HONG

LIKUD Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told American Jewish leaders yesterday that a government he hopes to head will talk with the Palestinian Authority "but only if it fulfills all of its undertakings, something which it is not doing now."

Previously Netanyahu had said that representatives of a possible future Likud government would deal with PA representatives, though he personally would not talk to Yasser Arafat.

Among the undertakings which the PA is currently failing to honor, Netanyahu mentioned "the handing over to Israel of terrorist murderers, the ending of anti-Israel

incitement, the destruction of terror bases and terror infrastructure and the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant which continues to call for Israel's annihilation."

Netanyahu told members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that he "feels a deep sense of responsibility towards the entire nation of Israel and will continue the peace process, but this with the utmost care and caution." Israel, he stressed, "must pursue a peace that will be borne of might and which will safeguard Israel's security and most vital interests, above all Jerusalem."

## Egged being sued for putting brakes on Yesha Council ad

HERB KEINON

PLACARDS reading "I feel secure in the national camp" will not be appearing on Egged buses around the country and as a result, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is going to take the bus cooperative to court.

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the settlement council, said that Egged informed the council 12 hours before the campaign was to begin that it was not going to allow the placards on the buses. The slogan is a central part of the council's campaign to enlist support for Binyamin Netanyahu.

Domb said that Egged in the past few months has carried Meretz placards saying that it would remove the Jews from Hebron, Third Way placards advertising that party, and most recently the Likud slogan, "Peres will divide

Jerusalem." "We see in Egged's stance direct interference in the political struggle in the country, favoring one side of the political spectrum, and an indirect contribution to the election campaign of one specific party, which is a criminal offense," Domb said.

The Egged spokesman could not be reached for comment last night.

The contract was signed between the settlement council and Golden Wheels, which handles bus advertisements. One of that firm's lawyers, Ilan Kenig, wrote the council saying that Golden Wheels received instructions not to place any election propaganda on the buses.

However, last night the placards began appearing on some 700 Dan cooperative buses in the Tel Aviv region.

IDF soldiers watch yesterday, as bulldozers knock down houses built illegally near Kiryat Arba.

## IDF demolishes Arab houses near Kiryat Arba

JON IMMANUEL

THE IDF yesterday demolished five Arab houses near Kiryat Arba built without permits, but a sixth was saved when an order to stop the demolitions arrived from the defense minister's office.

The civil administration spokesman said the demolition order was signed some weeks ago and dismissed Palestinian claims that the demolitions were a response to Sunday's bombings carried out by two men from the

Hebron area. About 100 demonstrators protested the demolitions, which prompted Environment Minister Yossi Sarid to intervene with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, acting as defense minister, to order a halt for the time being.

The houses were built in Area C which is under full Israeli authority.

The planned security wall at Rachel's Tomb, also in Area C, near Bethlehem, which provoked confrontations with the IDF, was resolved when Israel backed down from building a permanent wall more than two meters high. It has settled for a 70 cm-high wall which will provide a base for a temporary wall to erected on the few holidays when there are large numbers of Israeli visitors.

## Knesset rejects moon, adds days to year

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday failed to pass an experimental motion to establish a democratic republic on the moon, but it did pass one increasing the number of days in the year to 374.

It was not an early Purim prank, but Speaker Shevah Weiss' way of checking the numbers of MKs in the plenum willing to support a government bill. When the coalition failed for the fifth time to pass a series of largely technical amendments to the election laws due to the absence of MKs, Weiss tested the MKs with what he described as an experimental vote.

Weiss suggested establishing a republic on the moon, other MKs insisted it be democratic and sovereign; Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi demanded it be Jewish. In this way, Weiss could check support without holding an actual vote which would have been binding.

After this motion failed, coalition faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen managed to extract some more MKs from their offices.

The second experimental motion extending the year then passed unanimously by 74 votes. Some of the election amendments required a majority of 61 MKs to pass, but although the opposition backs the early elections, it had made its support of the amendments conditional on two demands: to retain the ban on showing MKs and candidates on national television for 30 days before the elections and permitting political advertising on Channel 2, as well as Channel 1.

The Labor Party turned out in large numbers for the vote, even Prime Minister Shimon Peres was there. But the Likud MKs left the room rather than vote, because

their conditions were not met. However, the coalition managed to muster sufficient MKs to pass the amendments.

The Knesset needed to pass the amendments before it dissolves in two weeks.

It also passed an amendment to the Party Funding Law which will grant MKs David Levy and David Magen some NIS 2 million for their electoral campaign as the newly formed Geshet Party. The amendment passed with coalition support, while Likud MKs abstained. Under the amendment, if two MKs leave their factions 90 days before the elections, they are eligible for party funding. Until now, only if a third of a faction broke away could it receive funding.

It was also decided that if a second round of the election for prime minister is necessary, it will take place 14 days after the first round.

**The Masorti Movement - The Rabbinical Assembly of Israel Congregation "Ma'ayanot"**  
deeply mourn the tragic deaths of  
**MATTHEW EISENFELD and SARA DRUKER**  
Students of our Beit Midrash and The Jewish Theological Society of America  
"May their souls be bound up in the bond of life..." along with all the recent victims of terror in Jerusalem and Ashkelon

**Ra'anana Runners and their families**  
deeply mourn the passing of their dear friend and fellow runner  
**LENNIE KAVALSKY**  
and send condolences to Ruth, the children and grandchildren.

**Yehuda Levy and the management of The Jerusalem Post**  
deeply mourn the death of  
**FRED S. SOMEKH**  
and extend condolences to the family

To the dear Somekh family  
We are deeply shocked by the passing of  
**FRED SOMEKH**  
He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.  
May you know no further sorrow  
The Liberman and Abeles families (Australia)

**Syria condemns Sunday's bombings**  
AN official Syrian newspaper, in a major policy shift, yesterday condemned Sunday's bus bombings. But the official English-language daily *Syria Times* said the bombings should motivate Israeli negotiators, who resumed talks with Syria in the US yesterday, to accept Syria's demands.  
"Although the incidents are condemned, these bombings and acts of violence and the ensuing closure of the occupied territories must be a lesson from which everybody should know that real peace is the only way to end tension and violence," the paper said.  
*Reuter*

**'Peres receptive to halting redeployment'**  
NATIONAL Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer said Prime Minister Shimon Peres was "receptive" yesterday to his appeals to halt the redeployment in Hebron.  
Hammer, who met privately with Peres on behalf of all the religious parties, told the prime minister that this week's terror acts only strengthen the argument that it would be a security blunder to leave Hebron.  
*Herb Keinon*

**LEVY**  
(Continued from Page 1)  
sioned by Channel 1, gives Peres a 4% lead - it was 12% last week. The Smith poll also gives Levy 3%.  
Such polls increase Netanyahu's incentive to deal with Levy and up Levy's asking price, even though the polls indicate poor prospects for Geshet.  
But there was support for giving Levy what he wants. "At this time, no one has the right to consider his own personal political future," MK Uzi Lapid said. "I realize we may be paying Levy an exorbitant price, but what counts now is that we do everything possible to get rid of the Peres government."  
Tzahi Hanegbi advised his fellow Likud MKs to "consider that together we might all create sufficient momentum to actually come in with many more Knesset seats than 40, so that together we will increase our representation."

**BANKERS**  
(Continued from Page 1)  
consequence that no affair investigated by a commission of inquiry could then be dealt with by the courts.  
They also rejected the bankers' argument that the government's approval of the manipulation should excuse them of all criminal responsibility. This might be true for the man in the street, Levine noted, but senior executives are supposed to know the law for themselves.  
Furthermore, while the authorities' involvement was wrong, it was not "scandalous and undeniable" to a degree that would justify acquitting the bankers, he said.  
*Bejski: Decision not surprising, Page 8*

**The Jewish Agency for Israel**  
Effective February 29, 1996, the Jewish Agency's Information Center for New Immigrants will operate at new premises at 6 Rehov Esther Hamaika, Tel Aviv.  
The new phone numbers:  
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On February 27 & 28, the Information Center will be closed, because of the transfer to the new address.

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## Liba'i criticizes rules for GSS probes

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i leveled implied criticism at the Landau Commission's rules for General Security Service investigations this week, saying he is not sure he would approve the same rules under the new GSS law his ministry has prepared.

The Landau rules govern what types of physical and psychological pressure GSS interrogators are allowed to apply.

"I'm not convinced that if I were asked to approve rules [for interrogators] under the new law, I would approve the rules approved by the Landau Commission," Liba'i said in an interview with Gidon Allon of *Ha'arezer* published in *Halishka*, the Bar Association's journal.

However, Liba'i defended the decision to keep the rules a secret under the new law, just as they are currently, though this decision has come under fire from human rights groups. Terror organizations try to train their members to withstand the GSS's techniques, he said, so the less they know about what to expect, the more successful the GSS is likely to be

in obtaining information.

Liba'i also said his office has been preparing a bill governing incitement and sedition, because the current law, based on British mandatory regulations from 1939, is outdated. He said a draft bill was developed both by his office and by an Israel Democracy Institute team. Liba'i also implied that the Knesset should begin thinking of ways to restrain the High Court of Justice.

"I'm a big believer in the Supreme Court's power to restrain itself," he said. "But it must be remembered that the composition of the court changes, so we should draw up norms and restrictions in a measured and responsible manner before they are needed."

Liba'i said he favored setting up a separate appellate court, because the burden on the Supreme Court is becoming too heavy, and the situation will only get worse if it begins assuming the role of a constitutional court. A committee headed by Justice Theodor Orr is now working on recommendations for a broad reform of the court system.

## 'Prison violating court order on detainee's rights'

EVELYN GORDON

ADMINISTRATIVE detainee Aryeh Friedman's jailers are violating court orders on how he should be treated, Friedman's lawyer, Mordechai Mintzer, charged yesterday.

Jerusalem District Court President Vardimos Zailer had ordered that Friedman be allowed to receive cooked food from home. Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal seconded this order, and added that Friedman should also be allowed to pray in a minyan every day.

However, Mintzer said, the prison has insisted that the court orders specify "cooked food," and therefore do not apply to baked, fried, or fresh food. As a result, Friedman has not been allowed to receive hallah or cake for Shabbat, or even fresh fruit. Furthermore, Mintzer said, he is not being allowed to pray with a minyan.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, in a recent verdict on administrative detainee Shmuel Cytryn, has stressed that precisely because administrative

detainees have not been convicted or even indicted for any crime, they must be treated as innocent men in every way compatible with security needs, and should therefore be allowed privileges not given ordinary prisoners.

Mintzer also said he spoke with Shai Nitzan, of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, and Nitzan told him the state has no intention of reducing Friedman's three-month detention, despite the fact that Tal, in his ruling on the case, told the state it should consider a "significant reduction" in the sentence. Nitzan is away on reserve duty and cannot be reached for comment, the ministry said.

On top of all this, Mintzer said, Friedman was recently "tried" by the prison authorities for failing to stand up before one of them, and was punished by being deprived of visiting rights and other privileges, without even being given a chance to defend himself.

Prisons Service spokesman Moshe Malul denied Mintzer's charges.

## Women demand reopening of Ben Ner's tomb

EVELYN GORDON

TWELVE women from around the country yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the two-year-long closure of the tomb of Avner Ben Ner in Hebron.

Ben Ner was a biblical figure from the time of King David, and Jews have traditionally visited his tomb to pray and recite psalms. However, the army closed the tomb, which is near the Machpela Cave, after the Hebron massacre two years ago. It has remained closed ever since, despite the fact that it was not even mentioned in the conclusions of the Shamgar Commission, which investigated the massacre.

The women therefore petitioned the High Court, arguing this violates their rights to freedom of religion and freedom of access to the holy sites.

"If security arrangements can be made to enable Jews to pray at the Temple Mount and the Cave of the Patriarchs, then they can find suitable arrangements to allow us to pray at the tomb of Avner as well," said Sarah Freund, one of the petitioners. "The army's job is to solve problems, not create them."

The tomb is located in Area C, which is slated to remain under full Israeli control according to the Oslo Accords.

## Illegal use of polygraph can't overturn conviction

EVELYN GORDON

THE illegal introduction of a polygraph test into a trial is not enough to cause a conviction to be overturned, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday in a 3-2 decision.

Justices Yitzhak Zamir, Mishael Cheshin and Eliahu Mazza, with Gavriel Bach and Dov Levine dissenting, therefore upheld the conviction of Yoram Abutbul on rape charges, despite the fact that the lower court was told the victim had passed a polygraph test.

"Polygraph tests are not admissible as evidence."

All the justices agreed that inadmissible evidence can overturn a conviction only if there is a reasonable doubt as to whether the accused would have been convicted without this evidence, or if the appellate court believes there is not enough evidence to justify a conviction without the illegal part. If a verdict is overturned, the case is sent back to the lower court for a retrial.

However, Zamir, writing the majority opinion, said he saw no reason to believe the polygraph results had influenced the lower court's verdict in this case. The test was mentioned in the verdict only in the description of events, rather than as a basis for the court's conclusions, he said.

Furthermore, he said, there is enough supporting evidence for

the victim's version to convict Abutbul even without the polygraph test, such as the testimony of a doctor who examined her and that of a Magen David Adom employee who treated her.

Bach, in his dissent, argued that in a case which revolves entirely around whether the court believes the victim's version or that of the accused, it is impossible not to suspect that the court's belief in the victim was influenced by the polygraph - particularly since there were plenty of holes in the victim's testimony. The lower court verdict referred to the test twice during its discussion of the victim's reliability. Bach noted, without the judge stating explicitly that he had ignored the test results because they were inadmissible.

Normally, one assumes a professional judge would not be influenced by inadmissible evidence, he continued. However, he said, it is impossible to make this assumption when the judge actually quotes that evidence in his verdict, without stating that it is inadmissible and therefore cannot be taken into account.

Bach also noted that by overturning convictions which included improper evidence, the Supreme Court would achieve the desirable goal of teaching lower courts to be more careful.

# Bombing turns parking lot into memorial site

Downtown hustle and bustle ignored as people pay their respects

HERB KEINON

THE north side of Jaffa Road, on the corner of Sarei Yisrael Street, was an unobtrusive used car lot five days ago, strewn with empty pop cans, gum wrappers and empty cigarette packs. You walked by the site without paying attention; there was no need to pay attention. It was a street corner - an ugly street corner - like any other.

Yesterday, the site felt like a temple.

Hardly anyone walked by without stopping. Not a car or a bus drove by without its passengers looking out and taking notice. Where 25 people were killed, a makeshift monument now stands. Where 25 lives disintegrated, thousands come and - in hushed tones - pay homage.

Honking cars have returned to the corner. Drilling has resumed on the construction of a high-rise building across the street. Commerce is furiously carried on at the central bus station nearby.

Yet when you pass a handwritten sign that reads Bus No. 18 Square, and into a fenced off area where memorials are formed from twisted metal, you enter what feels like an open-air cathedral.

Laughter is absent; candles are lit; prayers are recited.

People, for the most part, speak quietly. They look at a mangled piece of bus metal that was left at the site, and which is now bedecked with gentle flowers and sheets of poetry by Rachel. They stare at a flame burning in an army helmet that is set amid a pile of empty memorial-candle tins. They walk and look around as if in a museum.

Some light candles. Others take out miniature books of Psalms

and begin to recite. Still others go to a long, white burlap sheet that hangs on a fence, and write their thoughts.

A tourist from the Philippines writes, "We mourn with you and pray for Shalom in a United Erez Israel."

A man waits behind him for a blue marking pen and writes, in Hebrew and English, "Revenge."

"We are a people both of ritual and of tragedy. The newest ritual is to write one's thoughts at the sites of national tragedies."

Nameless people write to one another.

"When Rabin was murdered, we all felt the pain together," someone writes. "But here I only saw those from the Right. Where are the Leftists. Doesn't it pain them when Jews are killed? Why do they stay at home? Why?"

To which someone else replies: "People from the Left are here, and they are also hurting."

Much of the writing consists of slogans, angry slogans:

"Peres, on which bus is peace coming?" reads one.

"Arafat is Hitler," exclaims another.

"I don't want to be the next in line."

"Peres is the next in line."

"Peace and Love."

"If this is peace, what is terror?"

One man at the site, a 38-year-old haredi teacher named Shlomo Sender, says he came to this corner on Sunday morning, a few minutes after the explosion. He hasn't been able to sleep through a complete night since. He has returned to the site again and again.

"By coming here I am comforting the mourners," he says.



Two young women pray at what was once a Jerusalem used car lot which has become a shrine for those coming to pay their last respects to the victims of Sunday's bus bombing.

(Brian Heidler)

"But the mourners are sitting shiva at home, not here," he is reminded.

"I come to comfort myself," he says. "It's a form of therapy."

## Book aims to curb extremism in religious schools

BATSHEVA TSUR

A BOOK intended to curb extremism in the state religious school system has been published by the Education Ministry.

The 215-page volume, entitled *For My Brothers and My Friends*, is intended to serve as a handbook for teachers and educators, the ministry spokesman said.

The initiative for the publication came after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the repeated statements by his confessed murderer that he was acting in the name of Halacha, the spokesman said. Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, along with senior staff members, responded with a call for rooting out extremist fringe elements in Israeli schools and for reinforcing traditional Jewish values of peace and tolerance.

The book quotes numerous Jewish writings that contradict extremism, violence and intolerance and affirm the genuine Jewish values of harmony and reconciliation. Sources include the Bible, Talmud, Rambam, Ramban and Rashi, *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) and the *Shulhan Aruch* (Code of Jewish Law).

Chapter titles include "No to Violence," "For the Love of Israel," "The Unity of the Jewish People" and a "Tribute to Yitzhak Rabin." The book, which is being distributed throughout the religious school system, is not a text book but rather serves as a basis for open discussion.

Asked why the book was intended only for the religious schools, the spokesman said it had been put out by the Religious School Administration which felt that the most authoritative way to deal with questions of violence and democracy was through the Jewish religious writings.



## STATE OF ISRAEL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Knesset Elections Law (Consolidated Version) 1969  
Elections to the Fourteenth Knesset and for Prime Minister (Ad Hoc) Law 1996

### Display of 1996 Knesset Elections Voters Rolls

In accordance with Sections 33 and 35 of the Knesset Elections Law (Consolidated Version) 1969, as amended by the Elections to the Fourteenth Knesset and for Prime Minister (Ad Hoc) Law 1996, notice is given below of the days, times and places of display of Knesset elections voters rolls.

- 1. Registration in the Knesset Elections Voters Register.** In accordance with Section 2 of the Law, only those listed in the 1996 voters register will be entitled to vote in the Knesset elections and in local council elections.
- 2. Public Display of Voters Register.** To enable every voter to check whether he or some other person is properly registered in the voters register, Section 33 of the Law stipulates that lists be displayed at population registration bureaus, as detailed below.
- 3. Display Period.** This year, lists will be displayed from March 3, 1996 until March 11, 1996, both dates inclusive, excluding religious days of rest.
- 4. Manner of Display.** The voters register will be displayed on terminals. Anyone can call one of the phone numbers listed below to ascertain whether he or some other person is registered in the rolls.
- 5. Submission of Complaints and Appeals.** Any person who considers himself disadvantaged by not being included in the register, or by being improperly registered, may, in accordance with Section 40 of the Law, submit a request or appeal to the Minister of the Interior, through the population registration bureau nearest his home. Requests/appeals must be submitted not later than March 12, 1996, on the appropriate form, available at population registration bureaus. You will be asked to show your identity card when submitting the request/appeal. Anyone who submits such a request/appeal and does not receive a reply by March 17, 1996, or who receives a reply he considers inadequate is entitled to appeal to a court by Monday, March 22, 1996. Such an appeal is not subject to a court fee; it should be submitted on the appropriate form, available at magistrates and district courts.
- 6. Display of Supplementary Rolls of Voters without Israeli Citizenship, for Local Council Elections.** In accordance with Section 16 (a) of the Local Government Authorities (Voters) Law 1985, an additional voters list - residents who are not citizens of Israel - will be displayed with the Knesset voters rolls. The instructions regarding requests/appeals in paragraph 5 above apply equally to these supplementary rolls.
- 7. Requests to be Transferred to a Voting Station Suitable for the Disabled.** Any person who, because of physical disability, is unable to vote at the voting station for which he is registered, may apply to the Minister of the Interior, to have his name transferred to the voters rolls for a voting station near his place of residence, where there are facilities for disabled voters. Application forms for transfer to voting stations for the disabled will be sent by mail. Forms may be requested from Tel. 09-7677249. Completed, signed request forms should be sent directly to the address given on the form. Requests must arrive not later than March 12, 1996.
- 8. Telephone Enquiries Regarding Voting Rights.** To verify that your name is on the voting register you may phone any of the following numbers, from March 3, 1996, until March 11, 1996 (except Saturday), 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

#### Computerized recorded information:

Hebrew 177-022-3991  
Arabic 177-022-5447  
Russian 177-022-6991  
Amharic 177-022-6224  
English 177-022-3998

#### Telephone operators:

Hebrew 177-022-0280  
Arabic 177-022-0281  
Russian 177-022-0282  
Amharic 177-022-0283  
English 177-022-0284

#### From 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. (excluding Friday and Saturday)

02-6522148	03-6722107	04-616224	06-323047	07-737612
02-6522149	03-6034181	04-616227	06-323128	
02-6523705	03-6034182		06-791725	08-214711
02-294789	03-6193286	06-921474	06-521492	08-214713
02-290211	03-6193284	06-921424	06-521451	08-457727
02-290241	03-6194400	06-508515		09-583112
02-290245	03-9666350	06-508535	07-340661	09-581070
02-294818	03-9666482	06-508537	07340662	09-580879
	03-9666196	06-791723	07-298463	09-7677255
		06-791724	07-298464	09-7677265
03-9311596		06-521384	07-298465	09-612534
03-9311906	04-9917523	06-616231	07-737165	09-623984
03-9347602	04-616231			
03-6722106	04-616233			

Handwritten signature or stamp in Arabic script.

# Russia joins Council of Europe

STRASBOURG (Reuters) — Russia became the 39th member of the Council of Europe yesterday, pledging to promote democracy and human rights and saying its accession opened a new chapter in Europe's history.

Russia's white, blue and red flag was hoisted outside council headquarters to mark its acceptance into Europe's oldest transnational political organization — an envy almost upset by Moscow's military crackdown in Chechnya.

"Today's ceremony opens up a new chapter in the history of Russia, that of the Council of Europe and that of the continent as a whole," Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said in a speech at council headquarters in Strasbourg, eastern France.

A handful of people demonstrating at Russia's treatment of AIDS sufferers whistled and sounded klaxons nearby as a band played the Russian anthem. Police led away the protesters as Russia's flag went up between those of Romania and San Marino.

It was the only public sign of dissent at Moscow's accession to the council, set up in 1949 to promote human rights and democracy at the start of the Cold War.

Russia, whose tortuous path to membership began in 1992, is the 15th former communist state to join. Several hundred people at the ceremony applauded the accession — for less than 10 seconds.

The council's parliamentary assembly voted a grudging "yes" to Russia last month, calculating it would be better to cooperate with than isolate Moscow, whatever the reservations over Chechnya and its human rights record.

Primakov signed the European Convention of Human Rights, which outlaws torture, a charter on local self-government and a convention to protect minorities.

Meanwhile the presidents of Russia and Belarus took tentative steps yesterday towards merging their countries, promising integration and possible unity between the former Soviet republics.

"We can say more definitely that our goal is maybe unity, after deep integration. This goal is possible," President Boris Yeltsin said after talks with Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko.

"I said so during dinner and Alexander Grigorevich (Lukashenko) agreed. We should not rush it and prepare it thoroughly but we also should not be too slow and we hope that it will happen while both of us are presidents."

Lukashenko said he agreed with Yeltsin, but neither leader spelled out what he meant by unity or how ties between two sovereign states could be tightened.

Belarus, a country of 10 million people between Russia and Poland, has struggled to find an identity in four years of independence and Lukashenko, elected in 1994, has long sought political and economic integration with his giant neighbor.

Yeltsin, facing a strong communist challenge in Russia's presidential election in June, could see closer ties with Belarus as a way to steal points from the communists, who want to rebuild the Soviet Union voluntarily.

Russian Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told a news conference he welcomed the deal.

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Turkish caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller shakes hands with Mesut Yilmaz before the two completed negotiations on forming a center-right coalition government in which the two will share the role of prime minister. Yilmaz will serve half the four-year term first, with Ciller taking over the reins for the latter period. (AP)

# Forbes wins Arizona primary, throws race wide open

MIKE FEINSILBER  
WASHINGTON

IN another triumph for anti-Washington sentiment, Steve Forbes has taken a second straight Republican presidential primary, beating Bob Dole and all other challengers in Arizona.

Dual wins in the Dakotas kept Dole's hopes alive in a contest that scrambles every time the voters speak. No longer the clear front-runner, Dole has yet to win outside his native Midwest.

Commentator Pat Buchanan continued a strong showing, finishing just behind Dole in Arizona and ahead of Forbes in South Dakota. Lamar Alexander was looking less viable as a major challenger, as he finished fourth in all three primaries Tuesday.

"Stick-to-it" won for him, Forbes beamed. A week ago, the millionaire publisher looked like a flash in the pan with a lone victory in the small state of Delaware. His flat-tax idea has been attacked as a gift to millionaires.

Now, surprisingly, the super-rich publisher who has poured \$25 million of his own money into the campaign, leads all contenders in committed delegates.

Forbes' rivals tried to make his free-spending ways an issue yesterday, but the publisher insisted his message, not his money, was carrying the day.

With nine more Republican contests in the next seven days, the rivals turned immediately to South Carolina, which conducts a stand-alone primary Saturday.

Buchanan said yesterday that he would unmask Forbes in the South as a "pro-abortion" social liberal and would try to persuade conservative Democrats in South Carolina to cross over and vote for him.

Dole wore his Senate majority leader hat yesterday, scheduling a meeting with House

Speaker Newt Gingrich to talk about a new effort to pass balanced budget legislation and raise the limit on the debt ceiling — must-do legislative business. He heads South later.

Alexander announced his candidacy a year ago yesterday in his hometown of Maryville, Tennessee, and celebrated the anniversary by casting his absentee ballot in the Tennessee primary.

"Be sure and count it," he said, smiling, as he left after posing for pictures with poll workers.

In a speech to supporters, Alexander said Tuesday had changed everything in the Republican race.

"There's not a front-runner anymore and our front-runner can't be a front-runner if he doesn't win primaries, and he hasn't been winning," he said, without noting that he has failed to win any primary so far himself.

South Carolina's mix of displaced textile workers, who blame the loss of jobs on free trade, and conservative Christians could provide a sympathetic hearing to Buchanan's anti-abortion and pro-tariff themes. But the entire Republican hierarchy in the state has lined up behind Dole.

Next Tuesday, the pace intensifies with eight primaries in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Dole, once the man to beat, professed satisfaction despite his Arizona loss and said he would prevail in South Carolina, dominating the headlines over the weekend.

"My view is I'll be the Republican nomi-

nee," Dole said. "It may take a bit longer than we planned."

Alexander hoped his campaign of "new ideas" would catch fire in some of next Tuesday's primaries in states with moderate voting traditions. He admits he must have one soon to remain alive.

Forbes singled out his message of "hope, growth and opportunity" for his success in Arizona but his rivals credited his deep pockets. He spent \$4 million of his own money on television in Arizona, nearly \$40 for each vote he won.

"What he does, when he spends all that money, it helps Buchanan and drives me down," grumbled Dole. Buchanan echoed that: "Mr. Forbes has put millions and millions of dollars in the last couple of weeks in Arizona. That's very difficult to overcome."

The voting:

In Arizona, Forbes had 33 percent, Dole 30 percent, Buchanan 27 percent and Alexander 7 percent with 96 percent of the votes counted.

In North Dakota, Dole won 42 percent, Forbes had 28 percent, Buchanan 18 percent and Alexander 6 percent, with all votes counted.

In South Dakota, Dole won with 45 percent, Buchanan was second with 29 percent, Forbes had 13 percent and Alexander had 9 percent with all votes counted. Far behind in single digits were Richard Lugar, Alan Keyes and Morry Taylor.

Even though he has dropped out, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas won 9 percent of the vote in North Dakota — where many voters mailed in their ballots before Tuesday — but only one percent in South Dakota and zero percent in Arizona. (AP)

# Returned Moslems harass Serbs

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — UN police said yesterday that Moslem refugees returning to Sarajevo suburbs were harassing Serb residents and Serb authorities were plundering the infrastructure in areas still under their control.

"The IPTF (UN International Police Task Force) monitors on the scene are reporting that refugees returning to Vogosca, mostly Moslems, are sometimes harassing the local Serbs, even threatening them verbally," IPTF spokesman Alex Ivanko said.

"These threats do not help the general climate and only raise the general anxiety level among the Serb population," he told a news briefing.

A middle-aged Serb couple who sheltered Moslems during the Bosnian war said they had received threats that they should leave their home in the village of Semizovac outside Sarajevo.

Miroslav and Melita Spiric had planned to stay in Semizovac until the three Moslems knocked on their door early yesterday and told them Serbs were no longer

welcome in the village.

"One man asked me how his father had been killed and I told him I didn't know. He waved a Bosnian passport and said this was his country now and made it plain I had no future here," Miroslav Spiric told Reuters.

The couple, who had been assured by Sarajevo's chief of police that they would be safe, were considering whether to stay or go.

The incident underscored the growing international concern that attempts to build real stability in Bosnia through a multi-ethnic, democratic state are crumbling.

"What we seem to have on the ground is a growing tendency for each ethnic group to withdraw into its own space, that is what we are seeing in Sarajevo," one European diplomat told Reuters in London.

Ivanko said munitions had been found in the basements of some abandoned homes in suburbs being transferred to Moslem-Croat rule under last December's Dayton peace agreement.

"For example 40 rockets were found in a basement in one Vogosca house. We were shown an apartment which was booby-trapped with a grenade attached to the door," he said.

The IPTF is issuing identity cards to Moslem-Croat Federation police due to take over in the Sarajevo suburb of Ilijas today, Ivanko said.

He said many Serbs were leaving the suburbs because Serb authorities had removed all the equipment from industrial plants, schools and hospitals, meaning there would be fewer job opportunities after the transfer of power.

"Truly the masters of manipulation of human suffering, the (Republika Srpska) leadership has applied economic pressure on the population, forcing it to leave the area and join the ranks of refugees even while saying they could stay," Ivanko said.

"The only way to get people to stay in the so-called Serb suburbs is to provide them with jobs."

# Opposition pushes Asia in runup to poll

CANBERRA (Reuters) — The Australian opposition, bidding to end Labor's 13 years in power in Saturday's national elections, yesterday promised voters a better, richer Australia with stronger ties to booming Asia.

Opposition Leader John Howard, in a key televised speech, said his Liberal/National Coalition would make Australia a bridge for the rest of the world to the fast-growing Asian region.

While Howard painted a vision for the future here in the country's capital, his arch political rival Prime Minister Paul Keating was involved in a midair scare as he dashed across country trying to woo disaffected voters in key marginal seats.

Keating's army helicopter was slightly damaged as it clipped trees in northern Queensland state but neither the Labor leader nor the 14 others on board were injured, a spokesman for Keating said.

While Keating was stepping up his bid to claw back the opposition's lead in opinion polls, Howard told the National Press Club that Australia's future was linked to Asia, echoing Labor's own policies on stronger ties.

"We should see our economic and political future as very much tied up in it (Asia)," Howard said. "We will certainly be intensifying the economic and political links between Australia and our region."

Howard, 56, offered Australians a vision of a

fairer country with a renewed emphasis on family values, and growing prosperity fuelled by economic and labour reforms and a programme to tackle high youth unemployment.

"I seek with proper humility the opportunity of having the greatest privilege that any Australian can aspire to, and that is to occupy the prime ministership of this country," he said.

"People are entitled to honest, efficient government, to better government," he added.

"Whilst I can't offer you a perfect world, I will commit myself and my all to making life better for all Australians."

Keating, the architect of Australia's push into the dynamic economies of Asia, had warned voters a Howard government would turn its back on the region.

But Howard, who has worked hard to woo ethnic Asian voters, said Australia could strengthen ties with the rest of the world without hurting its important relations with its Asian neighbors.

"We can be seen as the link between Europe and North America and our region; we can have the regional association and something on top of it," he said.

"I make it very clear to all Australians that the importance of ties with the region will remain with a change of government."

Howard's opposition alliance of his Liberal Party and the rural-based National Party leads Labor by about six percentage points in the main published opinion polls.

Disagreements between the two unionist parties about the format of elections remain to be resolved.

"Until that cease-fire is restored, both governments have made it clear that there can be no ministerial talks with Sinn Fein, nor can Sinn Fein take part in talks," Major told a news conference at his No. 10 Downing St. residence following his summit meeting with Bruton.

Both denied that the renewed IRA bombing and three deaths in London this month had spurred them to act.

"The violence has done nothing but create difficulty," Bruton said. "It has not in any way accelerate the process."

Major indicated that Britain is no longer demanding a start on IRA disarmament before admitting Sinn Fein to negotiations, but he said the issue would have to be part of the talks.

The Ulster Unionist Party, which represents the bulk of the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland, had called for elections to a "peace assembly" as a way of starting negotiations.

Bruton and Major said an all-Ireland referendum on peace, proposed by the main nationalist party in Northern Ireland, was still possible.

# US extends ban on travel to Lebanon

THE Clinton administration announced Tuesday that it was extending the ban on Americans traveling to Lebanon for another six months.

After "a thorough intelligence assessment," the US decided that Lebanon "continues to be a dangerous place for Americans" and is therefore extending a ban in place since 1987, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau told a Senate foreign relations subcommittee.

The American business community, particularly Lebanese-Americans, has been pressing the US to lift the ban because other countries are winning lucrative contracts to help rebuild Lebanon.

Pelletreau said that though the restrictions "interfere" with American companies' ability to compete for such jobs, those firms' Lebanese representatives are able to "successfully" conduct business there.

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

Although the security situation has improved since 1991, when the last American hostages were released, "there are frequent terrorist threats against Americans and there is ample reason for our continuing concern about the safety of Americans in Lebanon," Pelletreau said.

In Lebanon, meanwhile, the army has ordered an indefinite nationwide curfew starting at 3 a.m. today ahead of a general strike and street demonstrations called by labor unions in defiance of a government ban.

Elias Abu Rizk, leader of the General Labor Confederation (CGTL) which called the protests, immediately said it would observe the curfew — apparently defusing a showdown with the government.

"A curfew is imposed on the cities of Beirut and its suburbs, Sidon, Tyre, Jounieh, Tripoli, Baalbek, Nabatiyeh, Bankin and

Zahle as of 3 a.m. Thursday morning until further notice," army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud said in a statement.

"Troops will open fire if anybody seen carrying a weapon if he does not respond to warnings," the statement said.

The last army curfew imposed in Lebanon was on February 6, 1984, at the height of the 1975-90 civil war, when Moslem and leftist factions took control of West Beirut in fierce battles against army units loyal to Christian President Amin Gemayel.

Lahoud's announcement came after the CGTL renewed calls for street protests during today's strike to press for higher pay and to protest against alleged government encroachment on liberties.

The CGTL, grouping up to 400,000 workers, is demanding a 76 percent pay rise for workers and a 100 percent increase in the 250,000 Lebanese pounds (\$157) monthly minimum wage.

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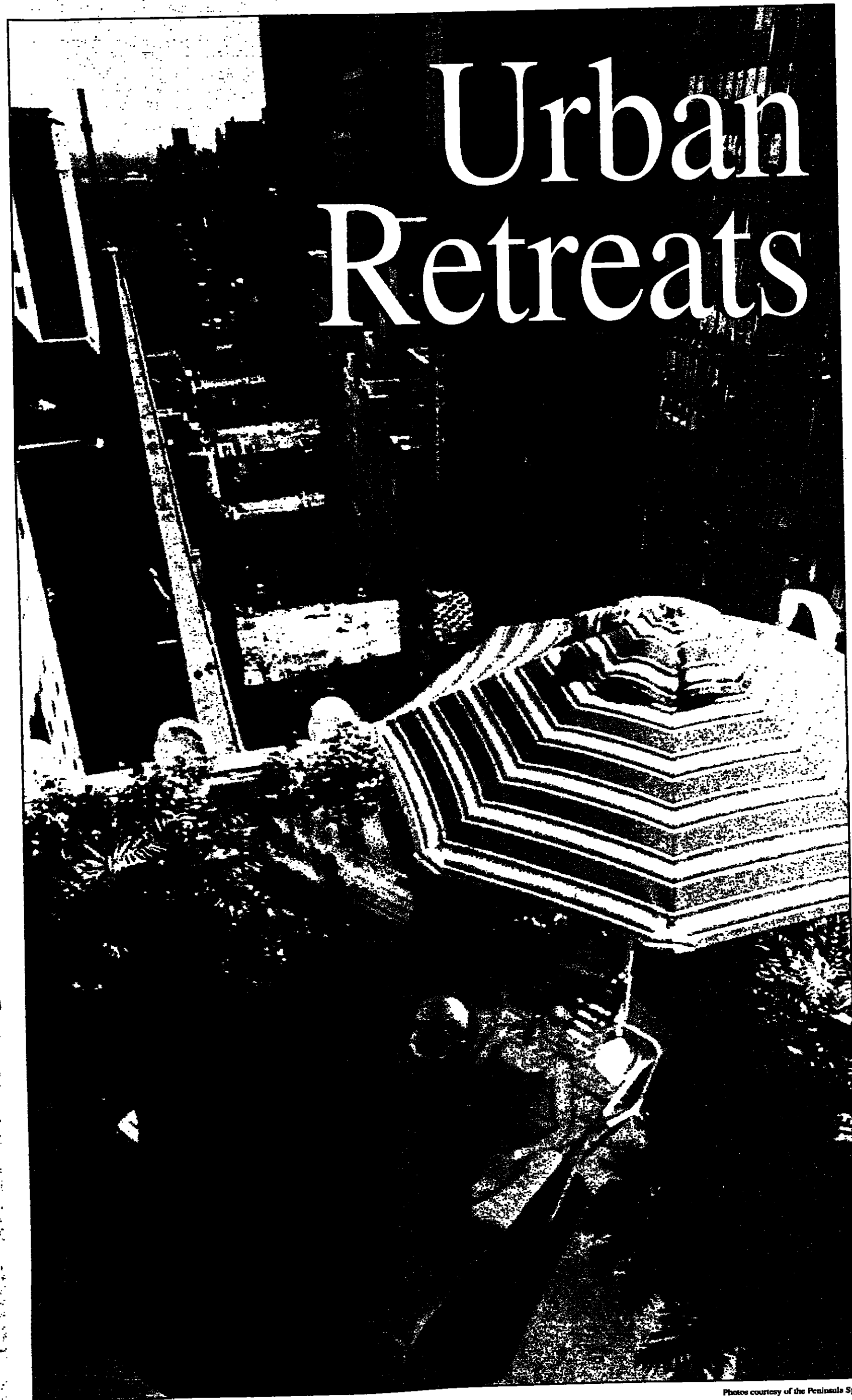


Beyond violence

THE JERUSALEM POST

# TRAVELER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1996



## Urban Retreats

Relaxation comes easy when you're looking down on the city bustle.



Some spas feature private baths—a great way to melt away stress and tension.

## Managing Manhattan's Big City Stress

By Vendela Vida

These days spas are popping up all over Manhattan at a faster rate than coffee bars. The reason? Whether you're a tourist or a Big-Apple-blooded local, spas are a sure way of finding oases of peace and pampering.

The word *spa* originally stems from the town of Spa in Belgium, home to a celebrated watering place. Today, the term is used loosely and can apply to a variety of services and facilities. The trick is to find out which spa can best fulfill your personal fitness, nutritional, psychological and spiritual needs, especially in a city where the stress levels can climb as high as the banks of snow after a blizzard, and at a time when there seems to be so little time.

One spa that seems to have everything a frazzled New Yorker or sight-seeking-exhausted tourist could want is the Peninsula Spa. Located high above New York City's Fifth Avenue in the luxurious Peninsula Hotel, this spa is sure to take you to new heights of rejuvenation and fitness. With a beautiful, panoramic view of Manhattan and a superb staff, the Peninsula Spa offers everything from a fitness room, an indoor pool, an outside sun deck (open in the summer), and, of course, an impressive array of health and beauty treatments. Among the myriad revitalizing services the Peninsula Spa provides are Swedish Massage, Reflexology, Seaweed Purifying

Wrap, Essential Slimming Wrap, Moor Mud Body Mask and Three Dimensional Aroma Body Treatment. Packages like "Executive Relaxation Day" and "The Fifth Avenue Retreat" are also available. And if you don't think one day's enough for all your relaxation and health needs, there's "The Peninsula Spa Weekend Package," which includes one night's accommodation at the Peninsula Hotel and spa services that extend over the course of the weekend. For more information, contact The Peninsula Spa at 700 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019; (001) 212/903-3910.

While many spas offer all the traditional spa services, some are worth visiting for their unique treatments. An example of an inimitable

**Spas are part of the "get back to nature and away from the superficiality of the eighties" trend that is evidenced in everything from recycling to the basic fashion styles that now hang in store windows.**

spa experience is one offered by La Casa Day Spa, located near Gramercy Park. La Casa, which has a "mother spa" in Puerto Rico, has modernized the old concept of the floatation tank by creating floatation rooms. After showering, visitors, or "floaters," ease into eight inches of water regulated to the same temperature as their skin. One thousand pounds of Epsom salts assure a sterile, bacteria-free solution, as well as

Continued on page 4

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## Arafat's blood libel

As first revealed in *The Jerusalem Post* on Tuesday, Yasser Arafat has been telling visiting diplomats that Israeli extremists were involved in Sunday's suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon. He said he was certain that there is a right-wing organization in the IDF which provides Palestinian extremists with explosives, logistic help and expertise that are, he said, unavailable anywhere in the Arab world.

"Only a superman would have been capable of executing such a complicated operation without Israeli help," he told one visitor. He has even branded this purported Israeli organization the OAS, after the clandestine right-wing group in the French army which opposed the French withdrawal from Algeria.

This is not the first time Arafat has made such a charge. Following the Beit Lid bombing in January of 1995, which killed 21 Israelis, and again after the bus bombing in Jerusalem of August 1995, in which four Israelis died, he made similar charges. At one time he even named then chief of general staff Ehud Barak, now foreign minister, as a leader of the group.

To Israelis such accusations are as deserving of attention as the ravings of a lunatic and as credible as other Arafat whoppers. In recent years he has charged that the ancient Hebrew coin imprinted on Israel's 10 agora coin is Israel's secret expansion map; that the blue stripes on Israel's flag represent the Nile and Euphrates rivers - the promised borders of "Greater Israel" in the Bible; that there is a map in the Knesset which shows all the territory between Egypt and Iraq under Israeli rule; and that Jesus was a Palestinian.

Government sources, who for obvious reasons preferred to remain anonymous, yesterday chastised Arafat through the media for propagating this nonsense. Embarrassed that such utterances can emanate from Israel's peace partner, they suggested that he should go after the real culprits rather than indulge in fantasies.

But it would be a mistake to dismiss this obscene libel as just another display of Arafat's eccentricity. Arafat does not believe in the existence of the "Israeli OAS" conspiracy any more than he and Hanan Ashrawi believe Jesus was a Palestinian. He has, after all, proved far more realistic than all those who habitually mock him. And if he insists on repeating these fantasies there must be method to his madness.

On the most immediate level, he must assume the lie - no matter how outrageous - will stick if repeated often enough. This was the basic tenet of Nazi propaganda minister Josef Goebbels,

and Arafat is nothing if not a good student of Nazi and Soviet propaganda techniques.

He clearly hopes to implant in Western minds at least a suspicion that those responsible for the heinous crimes in Jerusalem and Ashkelon are not members of an Islamic organization with which he has repeatedly professed close relations and solidarity, but some mysterious "extremists" on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian equation.

As all who heard Arafat's condemnation of the bombing on Sunday must have noticed, he did not condemn Hamas or Islamic Jihad, nor has he ever done so. On the contrary. He never misses an opportunity to call Hamas leader Sheikh Yassin "my brother" and demand his release, and he has lionized Islamic Jihad "martyrs." Nor has he ever referred to Hamas as anything but a legitimate opposition.

Moreover, by floating these big lies Arafat is risking nothing. The diplomats and journalists who hear his earnest descriptions of the conspiracy relate the story to their colleagues with amused disbelief. But no one has ever called him to task, nor has anyone warned him that his credibility as a statesman might be damaged.

After the Beit Lid massacre, the late Yitzhak Rabin once stalked out of the room when Arafat attempted to sell him this revolting canard. But Rabin returned and continued to negotiate. Nor has this or any other monstrous libel ever diminished the respect world leaders seem to have for him. If anything, it reinforces their resolve to help the Palestinian population with aid, grants and investments.

The fatuous, discredited notion that fanatics can be bought off with money, and that a higher standard of living will eliminate militant Islam seems to animate all Western leaders. That they trust an Arafat to preside over this transformation is a measure of their own tenuous hold on reality.

Clearly, one need not be a psychiatrist to wonder if it is prudent to make agreements with a man capable of propagating big lies. For even the most charitable interpretation of his actions must imply that he is shirking his commitment to combat terrorism. A less kind, and perhaps more realistic assessment of his conduct is that he believes the democratic world is so soft and gullible that he can deceive it forever.

One should like to hope that like his totalitarian mentors he is mistaken about the strength of his adversaries' survival instincts. Surely, if there is one nation in the world which should know the cost of trusting dictators capable of such blood libels it is Israel.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ISRAEL'S FUTURE

Sir, - Prior to the forthcoming crucial elections, there are some urgent concerns that we in the US academic community wish to share with the Israeli electorate:

1) We are concerned that a negotiating partner, the PLO, is still on record as desiring the destruction of the State of Israel.

2) We are concerned that an agreement regarding the Golan may entail the stationing of American troops on land between Israel and Syria. Recalling the terrorist action that killed some 250 Marines in Beirut, it is our view that no American soldiers should be involved on the Golan. Further, we find it difficult to comprehend that a significant portion of Israel's water supply may no longer be under Israel's control.

3) We are concerned about the deterioration in the administration of civil rights in Israel. We are appalled at the application of administrative detention law to non-violent expressions of opposition to government policies regarding the peace process. Our view is that the democracy of which Israel is rightly proud is being systematically undermined due to a climate of intolerance. There are many provisions in the Oslo accord that Israelis wish to examine with utmost care, and about which we, viewing Israel from our vantage point, are not in a position to comment on in detail. Suffice it to say that, as American academics and as staunch friends of Israel, we feel that it is incumbent on us to voice our concerns which affect the long-term viability of Israel as a Jewish state.

HARRY I. GREENFIELD, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, City University of New York, Executive Council, American Academics for Israel's Future, Wheaton, Maryland.

### SPECIAL ARTICLES

Sir, - What makes articles by Jonathan Blass ("Paradox of modern man," February 5) special is the combination of spirituality, history and contemporary thinking. I hope we can have many more such articles.

ELI GROSSBERG, Ashdod.

### LAND RECLAMATION

Sir, - The comments by the Dutch prime minister, reported in *The Jerusalem Post* on January 17, lead me to believe that Dutch expertise could help solve the ever-recurring Israeli problem of how to dispose of our garbage and at the same time increase the land available for development.

Consider a small cove, about 600 meters long and 300 meters wide, anywhere on an uninhabited and unused part of Israel's coast. Build a sea wall from side to side of the cove, to a height of two meters above high-tide sea level. Completely drain the cove and leave the floor of the cove to a depth of three or four meters, pile up the removed sand/detritus at either end of the cove. If no suitable coves can be found, a cove can be constructed with the provision of a mole.

You now have a large hole approximately 600 meters long, 300

meters wide and 4 meters deep, which can be used as a "landfill" site. Garbage is spread evenly over the site and continuously covered with the sand from either end of the cove. Eventually the site will fill and settle, producing 180,000 square meters of reclaimed land, having disposed of approximately a million tons of garbage.

Two or three of these sites, set up each year, would take care of all of Israel's garbage. The cost would be low and would be recovered by the sale of the reclaimed land.

The Dutch have expertise in building polders in conditions of violent storms and huge differences in tides; therefore, constructing the above at the extreme eastern end of the Mediterranean where tides and storms are minimal should be relatively easy for them.

ELLIS WINICK, Rehovot.

### VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Sir, - In no city or area where the PLO is in full charge can Jews reside. It is the greatest issue of human rights at this time and the UN should be the organization sponsoring a strong resolution against this PLO violation of human rights. The US must go even further and vote no more funds at all to the UN if this does not become a UN resolution. How can there be freedom and

democracy in Israel, the land of the Jewish people, when basic rights are violated? How could the negotiators of Oslo I and Oslo II have agreed to the idea that Jews cannot reside in Arab lands and Arab territories as a matter of principle? Renegotiations on this issue must take place before Israel and the PLO go on to final arrangements. TOBY WILLIG, Forest Hills, New York.

### 'COURT RABBI'

Sir, - As an Orthodox rabbi from New York now visiting Israel, I would like to explain why my colleagues proclaimed an *issur* (prohibition) on attending appearances of your Minister without Portfolio, Rabbi Yehuda Amital, during his visit to our city.

We have nothing personal against Rabbi Amital, who is a renowned Torah scholar, educator and dean of the Har Etzion Yeshiva, an institution originally founded, and to this day still mainly supported, by members of the New York Jewish community.

What disturbs us is that he is allowing himself to be "used" by Shimon Peres in his design of dismembering the State of Israel, endangering its inhabitants and dis-

honoring the memory of those who gave their lives defending the state. If Rabbi Amital really wants to serve his country, he should promptly resign from the government and return to his authentic calling: *rosh yeshiva*. Let Mr. Peres find himself a different "court rabbi" - perhaps from the Reform or Conservative movements, which are so eager to assume a political stance in your country.

These two groups, unlike the hard and religious camps, unequivocally support the Rabin-Peres-Meretz-PLO "peace process." Hence, one of their rabbis, rather than Yehuda Amital, should be in the government if Peres feels the need for a chaplain in his cabinet.

RABBI HOWARD KANDELL, Jerusalem (Long Island City).



## Truth, and nothing but

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

The Shamgar Commission is now closely examining the mountain of evidence gathered during its hearings into what went wrong with the General Security Service on that black Saturday when Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.

The commission's findings are expected to be made public before election day. They will surely cast a clear - and perhaps painful - light on the dirty tricks played by Avishai Rabin and other secret service agents provocateurs over the past couple of years.

If justice is to be served, the commission will go a step further and reveal which judicial authorities gave the go-ahead for these and other illegal activities. But any real hope that the truth will emerge is blighted by the deafening silence maintained by TV and radio, and the Hebrew press, regarding evidence of Rabin's unsavory doings under the aegis of the GSS top brass.

Rabin manipulated impressionable youngsters to fake a swearing-in ceremony of new recruits to an extremist group created by him, on the tomb of Yair Stern, whose underground group fought the British forces before the War of Independence. He goaded Yigal Amir to slay Rabin. He brainwashed two young Gilo boys into making photomontages depicting Rabin as an SS commander. He then gave them to an Israeli TV reporter, pressuring him to air them.

They were shown more than once. This was one activity the GSS did not report to Rabin.

Karmi Gillon, GSS boss when these dirty tricks were initiated, and some of his people were warned by the commission that its findings could place responsibility or blame on them. Gillon says he is determined to defend his good name. In a few months, he says, he will respond to the "libelous" charges against him, as well as to the alleged failure of the secret service he headed.

Already the blame has shifted from Gillon and focused on the deficiencies of the GSS's VIP protection unit, and on the failings of the police.

Now we have learned that a major effort is being made to minimize Rabin's role. If this doesn't work, the line will be that GSS top brass were far removed from Rabin's activities. Said Rabin: "Everybody is blaming me for everything."

A senior adviser defending the group of men who were warned told the writers of this column:

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"Rabin wasn't really a GSS agent. He was nothing more than an informer. What was he getting? Two thousand shekels a month? Yes, he knew about Amir. But he didn't know of his intention to kill Rabin."

We asked the adviser: "What about the schoolgirls who heard Rabin tell Amir, 'You keep talking about killing Rabin - why don't

### Ordinary bus riders deserve the same protection as the prime minister

you do it? Are you frightened? You say you want to do it. Show us you're a man! Show us what you're made of!"

"If this isn't a deliberate set-up," we asked, "what is? How do you react to the evidence of the bystanders who heard Rabin talk to someone on his motor phone at the peace rally and announce that it was Amir who had shot Rabin - 40 minutes before Amir's identity was released on TV and radio?"

Responded the adviser: "None of this has been proved. And anyway, who cares about evidence of this sort? These are political ideas, the same as many others. You can't arrest people for having ideas."

"Avishai was a great success as an informer," the adviser added. "Can you imagine how difficult it was for the GSS to penetrate such a closed group? It's almost impossible! Rabin got valuable information from the zealots."

We asked whether it was known in the GSS that Rabin was using taxpayers' money to pay young boys to play deliberately misleading and mischievous games, seen on TV, for the government's political purposes.

Came the answer: "Rabin needed to find a way to build up his credentials in order to do his job. He was warned 20 times to stop playing games."

We pressed our interlocutor: "Twenty times? Are you sure? Why wasn't he fired after the first time for taking matters into his own hands?"

"The GSS is a disciplined body, like every other secret service. Its operatives are expected to obey orders like in the army, and not

start doing their own thing, like prima donnas. If they don't obey orders, they get punished or jailed, or thrown out of the service.

More to the point, we asked, "Was Attorney-General Ben-Yair's approval sought for these dirty tricks which you call 'games'?"

Came the answer: "Remember that Rabin was working for money. It was impossible to consult the judicial authorities about every little thing he did."

IN THE light of Shimon Peres's claim that there are thousands of people out to kill him, a heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Shamgar Commission. It is vital that it strip away the last shreds of the attempted cover-up and reveal exactly what "is rotten in the state of Deumark."

And whatever is rotten in the GSS must be cleaned out. Only then will new boss Ami Ayalon be in a position to restore the service to its former glory. And Peres will be protected from all the hordes out there queuing up to get him.

At the same time, with all due respect to the prime minister, the lives of ordinary Israelis who travel on buses and not in chauffeur-driven limousines with scores of bodyguards are just as precious as his.

The GSS must not allow itself to be hampered by political considerations such as those that have ruled it from 1993, since when some 185 citizens have been murdered with seeming impunity.

Never was this deplorable situation driven home with greater bloody ferocity than Sunday, when the largest terrorist bomb blast we have known here tore an Eggod bus to pieces in the heart of Jerusalem, slaying 24 Israelis and injuring over 50. Another bomb soon after in Ashkelon claimed one Israeli life and injured 34.

The GSS must be allowed to focus on its traditional task of defending Jews against Arab terrorism. It should be permitted to return to its traditional methods, instead of having to heed idiotic, futile orders from the top that it should rely on help from Arafat's "secret police."

The GSS can no longer afford to waste its valuable time and energy seeking out non-existent Jewish "underground movements" to fulfill the personal political ambitions of politicians.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

## Beyond violence

DAOUD KUTTAB

The latest round in the cycle of violence, revenge and collective punishment in our region must stop. Enough is enough.

First, it is appropriate and necessary to condemn without reservation or qualification the suicide bombings that led to the death and injury of scores of Israelis this week. But condemnation is not enough.

Palestinians and Israelis must search for a way forward, despite the pain and frustration. After all, whether we like it or not, our futures are linked.

Let us be honest. Neither side has been able to defeat the other. Neither can continuously rule the other, and neither should be allowed to dictate peace terms to the other.

We are two peoples living on one piece of land, and no force will make either of us disappear. Both of us feel strongly about our right to this land. We need the courage and determination to find solutions.

Our leaders have made historic steps to remove the threat of all-out war between Arabs and Israelis. But the handshakes and Oslo agreements aren't peace; they aren't even qualify as a permanent truce.

For Israel a permanent truce would require a complete cessation of anti-Israeli violence; for Palestinians, the release of all security prisoners.

It seems to me that there has to be reciprocal action, to stop a sense of weakness and victimization prevailing, and frustration rather than hope ruling the day.

For a balanced approach of this kind, an outside party might be required - because the only way we can move forward is if some type of package deal is worked out, and, if necessary, pushed on our two peoples to accept.

Allowing the current asymmetry to prevail in negotiations will only create frustration, derailing the process at every turn.

Palestinians must end anti-Israeli violence. They must find a way to change from military activities to political ones. Obviously, this means Islamic forces like Hamas being brought into the political process and permitted to benefit from the fruits of the peace.

WHAT IS needed from Israel is amnesty for all Palestinian prisoners and those wanted by Israel for various security-related acts. Releasing people like the crippled Hamas leader - who is closer to the moderate wing in Hamas - could help tip the balance toward the political rather than the military trend. Releasing prisoners might be

### As Gandhi said: 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth leaves the whole world blind and toothless'

difficult for Israel, especially around elections, but it is certainly a prerequisite for a permanent cease-fire.

It is equally important to stop thinking in the archaic terms of revenge - whether in the form of preventive strikes, or violent response to an attack.

As Mahatma Gandhi said: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth leaves the whole world blind and toothless.

In its leaflet announcing responsibility for the suicide bombings, the Islamic group called for a cease-fire on condition that Israel stops trying to kill its wanted members.

For such a cease-fire to be reached, strategic thinking and activity must replace the present attempts to make facts on the ground.

Palestinians need to convince Israelis that they accept its right to a peaceful future in the Middle East. Among other things, this means removing, unhesitatingly, Israel's psychological concern about certain clauses in the Palestinian Covenant.

On the other hand, Israel will not be able to convince Palestinians of its willingness to accept them as a free and independent nation while Palestinian land is being confiscated, Israeli settlements are expanding, and collective punishment - closing off the Palestinian territories - is the norm.

We need courageous leaders and an unwavering political will. The international community, led by the US and Europe, can play a positive role in helping us attain real peace.

The writer is a Palestinian journalist and documentary film producer.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



LOG ON - This Beijing log lugger hardly looks strained as he takes a break. (AP)

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ILEG 06

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For a balanced approach of this kind, an outside party might be required - because the only way we can move forward is if some type of package deal is worked out, and, if necessary, pushed on our two peoples to accept.

Allowing the current asymmetry to prevail in negotiations will only create frustration, derailing the process at every turn.

Palestinians must end anti-Israeli violence. They must find a way to change from military activities to political ones. Obviously, this means that forces like Hamas, being transformed into the political process and permitted to benefit from the fruits of the peace.

WHAT IS needed from Israel is amnesty for all Palestinian prisoners and those wanted by Israel for various security-related acts. Releasing people like the crippled Hamas leader - who is closer to the moderate wing in Hamas - could help tip the balance toward the political rather than the military trend.

Releasing prisoners might be

difficult for Israel, especially around elections, but it is certainly a prerequisite for a permanent cease-fire.

It is equally important to stop thinking in the arabic terms of revenge, whether in the form of preventive strikes, or violent response to an attack.

As Mahatma Gandhi said: 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth leaves the whole world blind and toothless.'

In its leaflet announcing responsibility for the suicide bombings, the Islamic group called for a cease-fire on condition that Israel stops trying to kill its wanted members.

For such a cease-fire to be reached, strategic thinking and activity must replace the present attempts to make 'facts on the ground.'

Palestinians need to convince Israelis that they accept its right to a peaceful future in the Middle East. Among other things, this means removing, unhesitatingly, Israel's psychological condition about certain clauses in the Palestinian Covenant.

On the other hand, Israel will not be able to convince Palestinians of its willingness to accept them as a free and independent nation while Palestinian land is being confiscated, Israeli settlements are expanding, and collective punishment - closing off the Palestinian territories - is the norm.

We need courageous leaders and an unwavering political will. The international community, led by the US and Europe, can play a positive role in helping us attain real peace.

The writer is a Palestinian journalist and documentary film producer.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ISRAEL'S FUTURE

Sir, - Prior to the forthcoming crucial elections, there are some urgent concerns that we in the US academic community wish to share with the Israeli electorate:

1) We are concerned that a negotiating partner, the PLO, is still on record as desiring the destruction of the State of Israel.

2) We are concerned that an agreement regarding the Golan may entail the stationing of American troops on land between Israel and Syria. Recalling the terrorist action that killed some 250 Marines in Beirut, it is our view that no American soldiers should be involved on the Golan. Further, we find it difficult to comprehend that a significant portion of Israel's water supply may no longer be under Israeli control.

3) We are concerned about the deterioration in the administration of civil rights in Israel. We are appalled at the application of administrative detention law to non-violent expressions of opposition to government policies regarding the peace process. Our view is that the democracy of which Israel is rightly proud is being systematically undermined due to a climate of intolerance.

There are many provisions in the Oslo accord that Israelis will wish to examine with utmost care, and about which we, viewing Israel from our vantage point, are not in a position to comment on in detail.

Suffice it to say that, as American academics and as staunch friends of Israel, we feel that it is incumbent on us to voice our concerns which affect the long-term viability of Israel as a Jewish state.

HARRY I. GREENFIELD, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, City University of New York, Executive Council, American Academics for Israel's Future, Wheaton, Maryland.

### SPECIAL ARTICLES

Sir, - What makes articles by Jonathan Blasi ("Paradox of modern man," February 5) special is the combination of spirituality, history and contemporary thinking.

I hope we can have many more such articles.

ELI GROSBERG, Ashdod.

### LAND RECLAMATION

Sir, - The comments by the Dutch prime minister, reported in *The Jerusalem Post* on January 17, lead me to believe that Dutch expertise could help solve the ever-recurring Israeli problem of how to dispose of our garbage and at the same time increase the land available for development.

Consider a small cove, about 600 meters long and 300 meters wide, anywhere on an uninhabited and unused part of Israel's coast. Build a sea wall from side to side of the cove, to a height of two meters above high-tide sea level. Completely drain the cove and leave the floor of the cove to a depth of three or four meters, pile up the removed sand/detritus at either end of the cove. If no suitable coves can be found, a cove can be constructed with the provision of a mole.

You now have a large hole approximately 600 meters long, 300

### VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Sir, - In no city or area where the PLO is in full charge can Jews reside. It is the greatest issue of human rights at this time and the UN should be the organization sponsoring a strong resolution against this PLO violation of human rights. The US must go even further and vote more funds at all to the UN if this does not become a UN resolution.

How can there be freedom and democracy in Israel, the land of the Jewish people, when basic rights are violated? How could the negotiators of Oslo I and Oslo II have agreed to the idea that Jews cannot reside in Arab lands and Arab territories as a matter of principle? Renegotiations on this issue must take place before Israel and the PLO go on to final arrangements.

TOBY WILLIG, Forest Hills, New York.

### 'COURT RABBI'

Sir, - As an Orthodox rabbi from New York now visiting Israel, I would like to explain why my colleagues proclaimed an issue (prohibition) on attending appearances of your Minister without Portfolio, Rabbi Yehuda Amital, during his visit to our city.

We have nothing personal against Rabbi Amital, who is a renowned Torah scholar, educator and dean of the Har Etzion Yeshiva, an institution originally founded, and to this day still mainly supported, by members of the New York Jewish community.

What disturbs us is that he is allowing himself to be "used" by Shimon Peres in his design of dismembering the State of Israel, endangering its inhabitants and dis-

honoring the memory of those who gave their lives defending the state. If Rabbi Amital really wants to serve his country, he should promptly resign from the government and return to his authentic calling: rosh yeshiva. Let Mr. Peres find himself a different "court rabbi" - perhaps from the Reform or Conservative movements, which are so eager to assume a political stance in your country.

These two groups, unlike the hard-edged and religious camps, unequivocally support the Rabin-Peres-Meretz-PLO "peace process." Hence, one of their rabbis, rather than Yehuda Amital, should be in the government if Peres feels the need for a chaplain in his cabinet.

RABBI HOWARD KANDELL, Jerusalem (Long Island City).

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



LOG ON - This Beijing log lugger hardly looks strained as he takes a break.

(AP)



# Embracing a Healing Essence

By Martin A. Bartels

Today is indulgence. Today is the reward. "We focus on healing, in all the different ways—mind, body and spirit," says Shelley Widen Hall, spa director at the ANARA (A New Age Restorative Approach) Spa at the Hyatt Regency Kauai, Hawaii. "There are five ways to experience us: beauty, meditation, pampering, healing and fitness."

I had yet to experience this on my trip to this westernmost Hawaiian island. After scaling volcanoes, and struggling against the unpredictable ocean surf in search of colorful sea life, my muscles ache. Three hours of tennis and afternoon of golf the day before contribute to my sore limbs. My legs are scraped from the volcanic rocks I had navigated with a friend to reach a secret ocean alcove where snorkeling is particularly good. On another adventure, I had climbed to and dove into a remote and chilling freshwater pool.

I admit to some skepticism as I prepare for the treatments planned for me. New Age Restorative Approach? In my experience, New Age has meant weird and esoteric. Neither of those terms apply to the ANARA Spa.

In both the architecture and facilities, the staff draws a careful balance between the therapeutic and the tranquil. There is a well-equipped, state-of-the-art weight room, and a great room for aerobics. An outdoor lap pool maintained at an appropriately cool temperature serves as the center of the spa, surrounded by 10 private open-air rooms for various treatments.

My morning begins with a 10-minute visit to the steam room. A fine, aromatic eucalyptus mist is sprayed into the room as the intense steam works away at stiff muscles and opens the pores of the skin.

The door opens and my massage therapist leads the way to my massage table.

In the space of an hour, this small, 10-foot by 12-foot room transforms into another world.

The design of the space helps the illusion. A lush, tropical garden replaces a wall at one end of the small room. A gentle Hawaiian breeze

flirts with the foliage and wildlife before it comes to rest over the spa bed in which I am comfortably ensconced.

This is not my first spa experience, but it is quickly becoming the most pleasant. Most spas offer similar treatments, ranging from massages and salt scrubs to facials and aromatherapies. Several elements, however, contribute to making the Kauai spa unique.

Throughout my visit, I was struck by the intense fascination in natural remedies and healing. The island boasts tens of thousands of species of herbs and other vegetation, each possessing a medicinal property.

"This clay," my therapist says, "is very unique. It is called 'alaea,' and it's only found on three of our islands, no where else in the world. We use it as a lotion but some people

**In the space of an hour, this small, 10-foot by 12-foot room transforms into another world.**

make tea from it. It is very good for you."

The red clay, which is mined at the base of volcanic flows by Hawaiian kupunas (healers) is mixed with sea salts, aloe and oil to form a lotion. The sea salts, rich in minerals, exfoliate the skin and theoretically draw out impurities. Combined with the Hawaiian lomi-lomi (a firm, deep-muscle body massage), the treatment leaves the skin silky, and the muscles pliant and supple.

At the end of the massage, a hot bath is drawn, into which a mixture of sea salt and limu (seaweed, in a powdered form) is poured. Twenty minutes later, with a glass of fruit juice in my hand, I begin to wonder how I can take up permanent residence.

No one warned me, though, about the cold shower. In a chamber filled with about a dozen spray nozzles, I am subjected to a brief burst of cold water designed to stimulate blood circulation and cleanse the skin. Most spas offer some variation of this treatment, which is admittedly rejuvenating but probably best left for the stout

hearted.

All of the staff's efforts left me feeling well rested and perhaps even a little healthier. They have not served to allay the growing sense of anxiety I feel as I approach my last treatment.

"Men have a thing about it," Widen Hall agrees. "When you say 'facial,' they think 'make-up.'"

There's an executive, though, who has visited us a couple of times a year for three years now. He told us that being here literally saved his life. I think it's because there was nothing asked of him—the treatment is two hours of accepting, without ever having to give something back."

I am introduced to Lena, who will begin my facial. Lena's very presence is calming. She appears to be in her mid-30s, although she is over 50.

Even if the only benefits of a facial seem to be physical, it is well worth the experience. Lena's treatment begins with a face massage, then moves to my hands and feet. She applies a liquid mask to my face that quickly firms, and is peeled. Various lotions and oils replenish the skin's natural health.

In Hawaii, Lena has studied some of the ancient arts of the kupuna healers, as well as the more New Age techniques of massage and chakra (inner energy).

Gradually, and without much resistance, I accept that there is something relevant in these practices.

Lena covers my face in layers of *ni* leaves (a native Hawaiian tree leaf) and warm towels. My hands and feet are wrapped in heated socks, and aromatic sprays amplify the relaxed atmosphere.

It is an experience that inspires thoughts of profound life changes. A new diet, perhaps—vegetables and fruit, with an occasional side of fish. Daily meditation, and a commitment to decreasing the stress of my modern lifestyle.

Somewhere in the back of my mind, though, I suspect I will fall back to my old ways as soon as I return home. But for a brief moment, I am allowed to embrace the healing essence of escape.

Martin A. Bartels is a freelance travel writer.



Therapeutic showers will typically offer short bursts of alternating hot and cold water, primarily designed to aid blood circulation.

Spa treatments range from modest to extravagant (one spa, for instance, offers high-intensity water "massage" from a fire-hose), and prices reflect that range, as well. Most spas will offer combinations of the following. Prices vary between \$50 and \$150 for an hour's worth of work. At most spas, it is appropriate to tip the therapist between 15 and 20 percent of the cost of the session.

### AROMATHERAPY

The real benefits of aromatherapy are open to debate, but the psychological benefits can be very rewarding. Various odors are believed to create essential oils ranging from increased energy to passive relaxation, and even sensual desire. Aromatherapy is most often used at spas simply to create a specific atmosphere or environment in the treatment room.

### MASSAGE

There are dozens of styles of massage, too numerous to detail here. Some of the most common include Swedish (traditional), shiatsu (deep pressure points), lomi-lomi (deep muscle, full body), reiki (gentle and without oils, designed for relaxation), and Thai (gentle with stretching movements incorporated). Deep massage is not recommended for elderly people or those with certain physical disabilities and intestinal disorders. Consult with a physical therapist or doctor before trying any unfamiliar styles.

### SALT SCRUBS

These are not recommended for people with sunburns. Salt scrubs incorporate rough, grainy sea salts and soft oils to act as sand-paper on the skin. The technique removes dead skin and exfoliates the pores. The effect can be painful for people with sensitive skin. It does, however, leave the skin incredibly smooth and creates a glowing complexion.

### MUD & SEAWEED BATHS

Baths are typically heated to relax the body's muscles and joints. Mud and seaweed contain minerals and nutrients to treat the skin.

### FACIALS

Facials are usually a combination of light massage and skin treatments. Facial masks come in many varieties, most commonly a combination of vegetable byproducts and oils. They are designed to cleanse the pores, remove dead-skin cells, and soften the skin. Manicures and pedicures are sometimes paired with these treatments.

Most spas also offer various exercise programs such as aerobics, Tai chi, yoga and reflexology. Some spas also provide strictly balanced dietary menus (usually vegetarian). It is important to ask when making reservations if health menus are available.



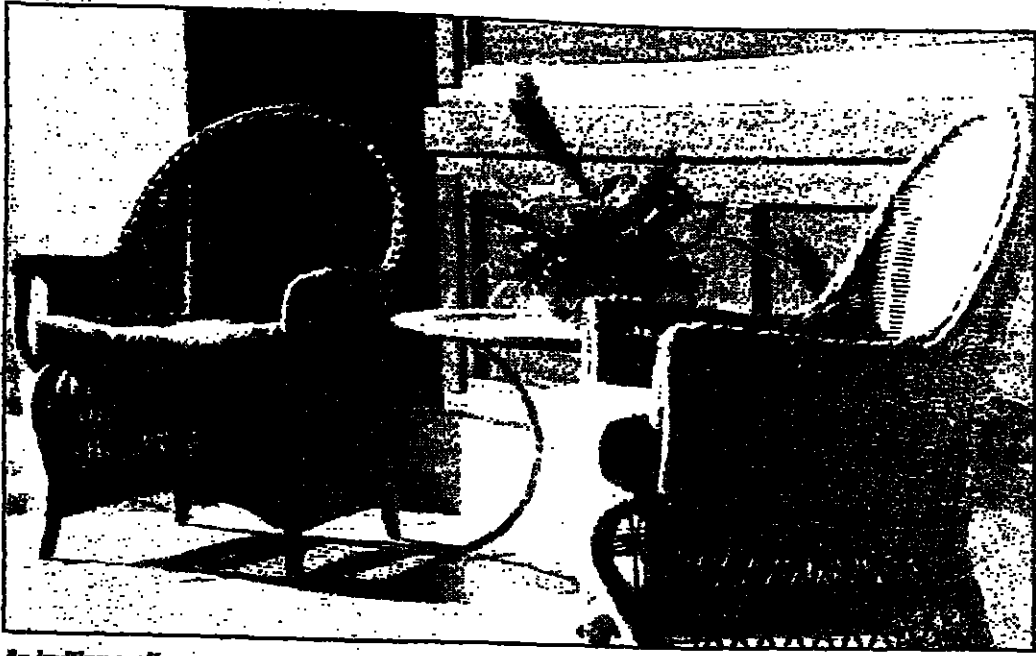
Kauai is home to many scenic overlooks.

Photos courtesy of Hyatt Regency Kauai

Advertisement for Hawaiian Airlines. Text includes: "HAWAIIAN AIRLINES", "K", "Buy B", "LAST OFFER".

Medical USA





An inviting seating arrangement at the Hyatt Regency Kauai.

# HANG LOOSE AND ENJOY HAWAIIAN TIME

By Steve Dolan

Copley News Service

**K**AUAI, Hawaii—About 10 p.m., several of us took a walk on the beach and looked at the stars.

We saw the Milky Way. Then, the Big Dipper. Without bright lights, a big city or polluted air, the sky was as clear as could be. And there were stars everywhere. Stars in the skies. Stars in your eyes. That's what a trip to this beautiful Hawaiian island is all about.

Kauai, sometimes referred to as "cow-eye," is known as "The Garden Isle" due to its lush vegetation and abundance of agriculture.

It may be a garden island to some, but to others, it's strictly paradise. Talk about a vacation to a beautiful island where you can get away from it all.

We were fortunate enough to be on a tour where all transportation was provided. If that's not the case for you, book a rental car well in advance. You're not going to be able to hail a cab on this island.

Upon arrival, we were taken to Poipu. This area was devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992 but has been rebuilt in remarkable fashion.

In fact, one of the few reminders of Iniki came just outside of Poipu. The tree branches above the road are not intertwined as they once were because of the damage suffered during the hurricane.

**They have this "Hang Loose" sign—you simply fold your hand and extend your index and pinkie finger to somebody as they cruise by.**

Once we arrived at our hotel, the Hyatt Regency Kauai, the possibilities seemed endless. There were swimming pools galore, a world-class golf course across the street, massages, beaches, you name it. For my first "activity," I decided for the massage

by Monica. It was called the "Lomi Lomi," where almost every area of the body receives attention—and that includes the hands, feet, head and face.

I was told Monica was a strong Samoan woman, and that was an understatement. Thankfully she eased up during the massage.

After that soothing massage, my body felt great. The massage was designed to ease blood pressure, and my usually high blood pressure was probably somewhere near normal after the treatment.

Next came a round of golf at Poipu Resort Bay Golf Course. This course is incredibly picturesque. If you look in one direction, you see the mountains. Look the other way and there's the Pacific Ocean.

It immediately seemed to me as if there was just too much sand on the beaches nearby. But then it came to mind that they must have taken some of the excess sand from the beach and put it on the golf course.

This course is devoid of trees, but the sand hazards are omnipresent. On the fourth hole, in fact, I went from sand trap to sand trap.

After a round of this challenging course, it's best to forget that your score zoomed well into triple figures. One lady in our foursome from Montgomery, Alabama, said it best when she commented, "After this, I need a major cocktail."

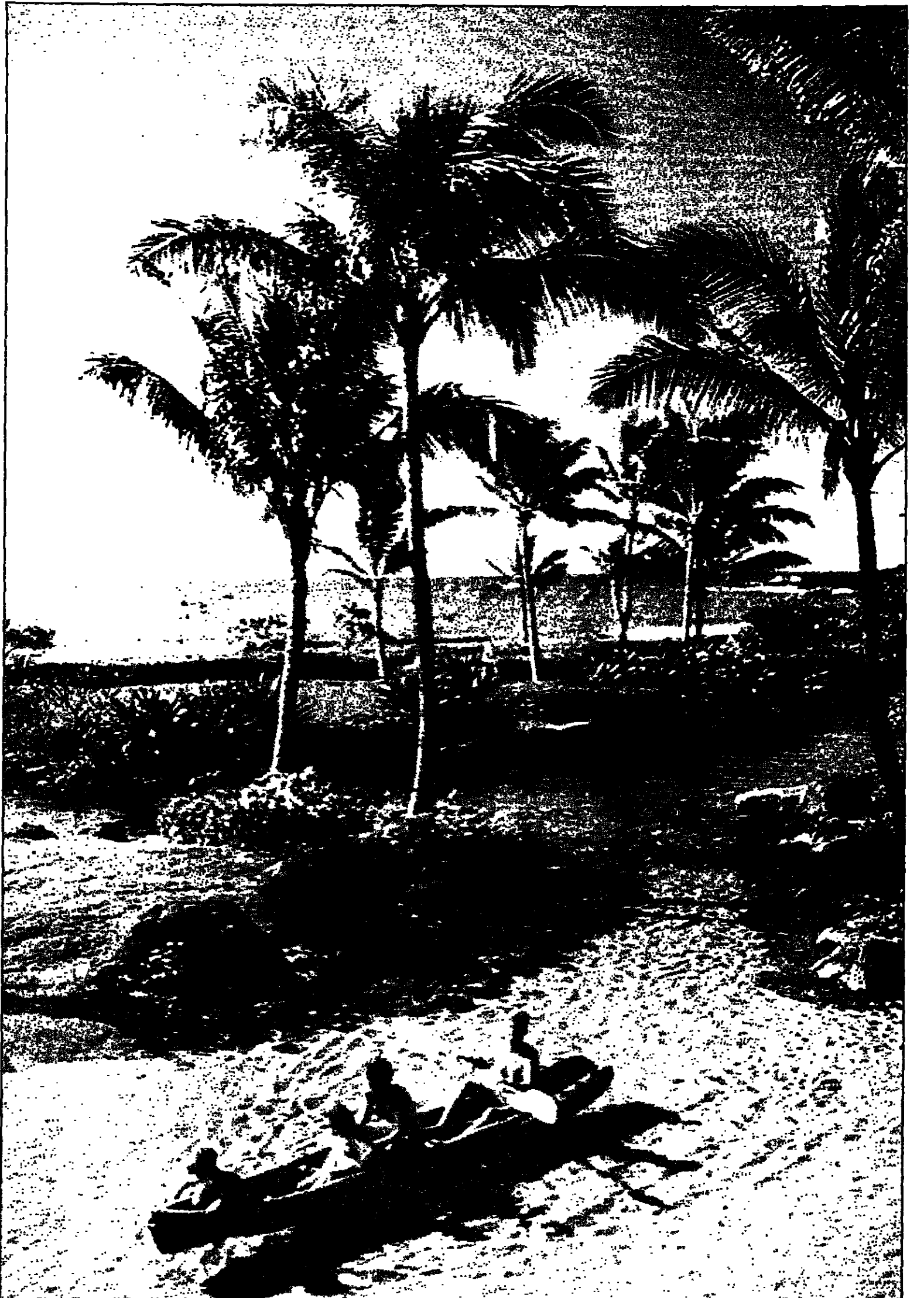
Hawaii is famous for its rum drinks such as mai tais, pina colodas and lava flows. The vodka-flavored Blue Hawaiians and kalaehe colada made from Bailey's and macadamia nut liqueur aren't bad, either.

The day after playing golf, we took a trip to Waimea Canyon. Known as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," it features an abundance of deep, spectacularly hued gorges. On our way up Waimea Canyon Drive, we spotted wild goats on the cliffs. I'm just glad somebody else was driving because the road was treacherous.

When we eventually began a 1.2-mile hike on the Alakai Swamp Trail, the weather was as humid as could be. There is supposedly something in Hawaii called trade winds to cool the weather, but those winds are still a rumor in my mind.

Next up was the 2.3-mile Pihea Trail. By the time we finished that hike, it was raining.

From heat pain to rain in a matter of hours? That's the way they say it is here.



Photos courtesy of the Hyatt Regency Kauai

Keyaking close to the shore is one way to hang loose.

Getting to these trails was no picnic. Our driver, Francis Keao of Kauai Mountain Tours, was a great and talkative guy.

Keao told us he was also a fisherman, which is popular among Hawaiians. He said a friend of his recently caught a 103-pound ulua (a fish known along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as a pompano).

After two days of nothing but rushing on Kauai, Day 3 was time to kick back. Most of us simply enjoyed the pools, hot tubs and pool slides at the Hyatt—a daylong adventure in itself.

By midday, we moved from Poipu to Waimea. Talk about culture shock. This was like going from Palm Springs, California, to Laramie, Wyoming, and being told there was little difference between the two.

There wasn't much more to do in Waimea than walk on the beach, go shopping or gaze at the stars. But, hey, after a couple of busy days, it was nice to take a 10-minute break.

Throughout the islands, they have this "hang loose" sign used to greet people. You simply fold your hand and extend your index and pinkie fingers to somebody as they cruise by.

There's also something they call "Hawaiian time." That merely means you show up late and say you were on Hawaiian time.

The stars. Hang loose. Hawaiian time.

Steve Dolan is a Copley News Service editor and travel writer.

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# Buy Blue & White and Keep Israel in the ...

# A GREEN VALLEY TUNE-UP

By Roberta Sotonoff

After hiking the trails of Zion and Bryce canyons in Utah, my body needed a tune-up. And luckily for my aching calves, Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort, just outside of St. George, Utah proved to be the perfect place for some therapeutic body work.

My daughter, Caryn, and I were greeted by a staff

member, who, after taking one look at our bedraggled bodies, promptly whisked us into the Relaxation Room. Here, guests clad in white robes and flanked by potted greenery lounged on oversized sofas and fluffy chairs.

"This is the waiting room of a hospital or of heaven," I whispered to Caryn.

She picked up a sheet highlighting the color of the day—Yellow. It explained, "like the radiant light of dawn reflected in the sparkle and glisten of early-morning dew drops."

Two white-attired young women approached us.

"Would you like a massage?" Caryn and I eyed each other trying to suppress a giggle. Why not?

And so we experienced our initiation into the inner sanctum of Green Valley Spa—"a place where the images in our minds and the dreams in our hearts can come true."

Green Valley Spa's treatments are unique. For example, my facial included a foot rub and a full body fanning "to remove any bad aura around."

On Green Day I was scheduled for a pedicure and a massage. My soft-spoken attendant ushered me from the Relaxation Room into a private shower. Two heated mitts alongside a tall green goblet filled with lime-flavored water sparked my curiosity. The first is covered with a mixture of sand, powdered peels and natural ingredients which cleanse and exfoliate. The second is a moisturizer. After finishing my shower, I don the relaxation uniform, a terry-cloth robe, and was escorted to my treatment.

"I am to have a pedicure," I told the therapist as my arms were put in a tub of warm wax, covered in plastic, and placed on my hands. I was then led to a huge Lazy-Boy, and the therapist pointed to a green goblet and said, "It'll help if you are thirsty." The glassware, it seemed, matched the color of the day.

She massaged my feet and legs. After a footbath, my feet were covered with wax, plastic and booties.

My massage began an hour later. The preliminary treatment was the same: two mitts, another shower but this time I was led to a large room illuminated by three green beeswax candles. New Age music filled the room, a weeping willow tree hung over a flower-filled Jacuzzi and a green glass rested on the tub's rim.

"This is a honey and milk treatment to relax you for the massage," the therapist informed me. "Is there any particular part of your body that gives you trouble?"

Not after this treatment, that's for sure.

## THE SECRET TO GREEN VALLEY RELAXATION

Owner Carole Coombs is responsible for the honey and milk meltdown. She has created the Relaxation Center along with the potions used there.

"Our main objective is to dispel tensions, bring pleasure and make you aware



A massage is only part of the experience, at the Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort in Utah.

of your surroundings," she says.

Together with her husband, Alan, they have developed the spa and most of the valley. With 12 children between them, it is a family endeavor.

"There is a place for all of them in the business," says Alan.

Part of their success with the spa emanates from their meticulous attention to detail. Oriental rugs hang from the walls of a workout room. In the dining room,

**All this activity and pampering has recharged my battery, put air in my tires, replaced my shocks and made my body feel rustless and dent-free.**

the decor is changed daily, making the savory, salt-free, low-sugar, low-fat food taste even better. The daily calorie count of these tasty tidbits totals a mere 1,300.

Every aspect of life at the spa has been calculated. At night, *A Thought to Ponder* appears on a silver tray along with fruit and tea to match the daily hue.

Guests are housed in tastefully decorated condos with spectacular mountain or desert vistas. Accommodations are so bountiful that for almost two days, I mistake my closet for the hallway to the living room.

Sensational scenery surrounds the spa. Hikers gather every morning at 6:15 a.m. to survey nearby canyons and foothills. Absorbing the red-soaked beauty is as breathtaking as the arduous treks up the steep inclines. Indian arrowheads and petroglyph-etched caves are almost commonplace along these trails.

Trekkers return to the spa between 9 a.m. and 12

noon to relax, workout or swim. Green Valley classes run the gamut from yoga, exercise, and cardio-funk to bread baking and Bootin' Scootin' Line Dancin'. I try the fit ball. Trying to do sit ups on a giant ball takes coordination, so I spent most of the class on the floor. Classes at the Vic Braden Tennis College are included. No more than six students per level are individually coached and drilled. Each pupil's daily progress is recorded on videotape.

For guests who prefer relaxation and stress reduction, \$290 buys the super pampering Botanical Body Enlivening Program. It includes special massages, wraps, crushed pearl body rubs and full-body mud packs. Also unique to Green Valley are add-ons like card readings, mind mapping and color consultations. For \$350, the Shaman Journey's Program offers a profound understanding to your inner life.

During one of the evening discourses, author Steve Uppwall speaks to guests of insight. Another lecturer, Russ Robertson, shares his hiking experiences and pictures of the Anasazi cave he and his friends discovered in the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. This active septagenarian leads some of the hikes, but an injection of mountain goat genes is necessary to keep his pace.

The days at Green Valley pass as quickly as Russ' strides. There must be something to this New Age stuff. All this activity and pampering has recharged my battery, put air in my tires, replaced my shocks and made my body feel rustless and dent-free. I'm not longer a clunker. The next time I need a tune-up, I know where to go.

Green Valley Spa and Tennis Resort, 1515 West Canyon View Drive, St. George, Utah 84770, (001) 801/628-3060 offers weekly packages, including treatments, for \$2,350. Other packages and specials are available.

Roberta Sotonoff is a freelance travel writer.



A jacuzzi by candlelight may be the quickest way to tune-up.

Photos courtesy of the Green Valley Spa

## Urban Retreat

From page 1

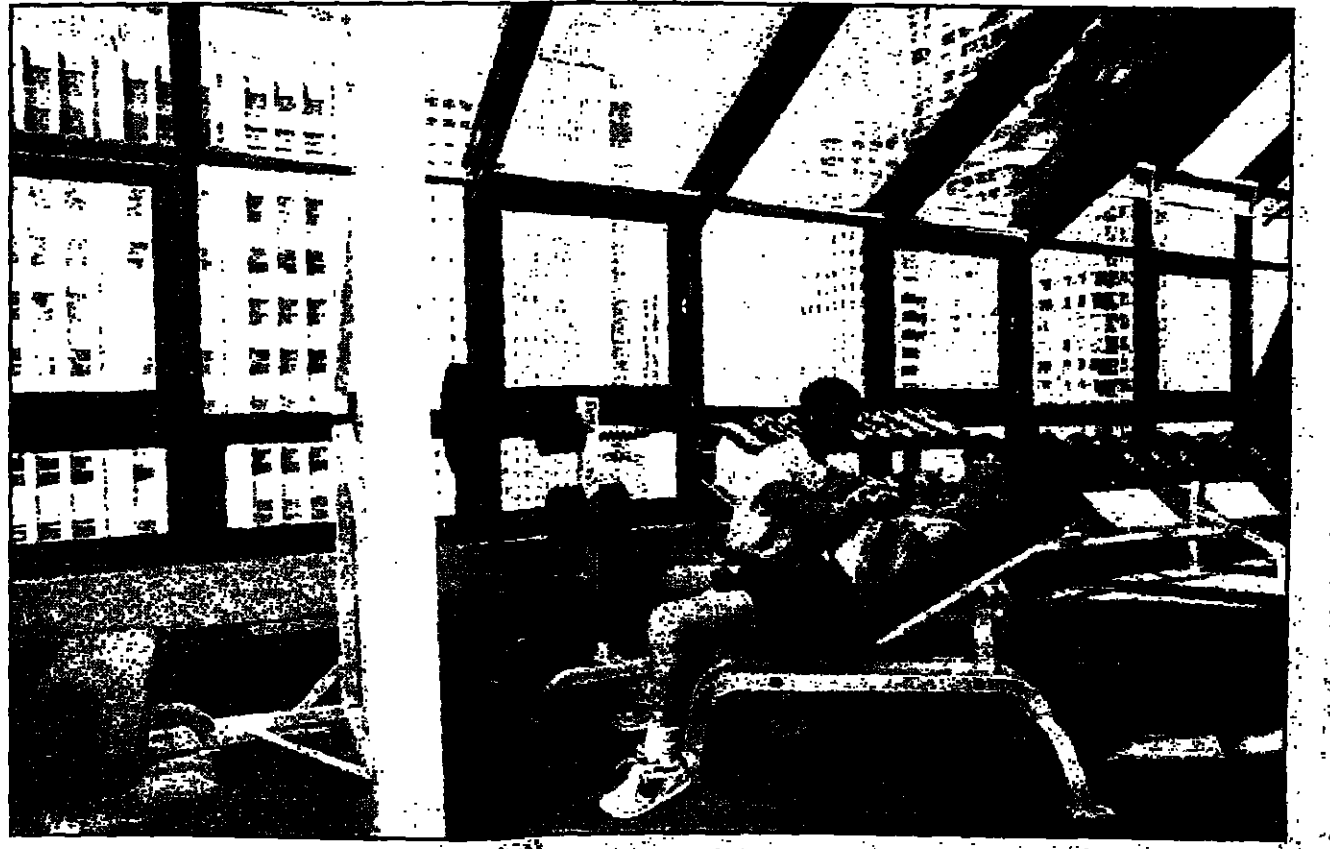
giving a sense of buoyancy and weightlessness, similar to that experienced by anyone who's floated in the Dead Sea. The floatation rooms are sound-proof and offer no light, thereby creating an atmosphere of "sense deprivation," which is perhaps the ultimate refuge from the urban noise of honking cabs and constantly ringing cellular phones. Dr. Jane Goldberg, the director of La Casa, claims that 40 minutes in a floatation room is almost as invigorating as a full night's worth of sleep. She opened the New York spa at the same time that she became a mother, and claims that

the floatation rooms gave her the energy she needed during that time. A one-time visit to the floatation tank costs \$40, less if a package is purchased. Call or stop in La Casa Day Spa at 41 East 20th Street, New York, New York 10003; (001) 212/673-CASA.

For a more communal spa experience, check out the Tenth Street Russian and Turkish Baths, located in Manhattan's East Village. While there were once dozens of baths in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx, the Tenth Street Baths are the last of its kind in New York City. After exercising, visitors to the Baths can don a robe, towel and slippers and make their way to the steam room or sauna where, as a sign in the Baths suggests, they can "just sit and shvitz." Next,

visitors can go to the ice cold pool, and afterwards, enjoy fresh-squeezed juice and request a "healthful" meal from the chef before taking a nap, reading, or watching their favorite sporting event on television. Also optional are massages or *plazas*. *Plazas* are given with brooms made of oak leaves which contain a natural astringent. This astringent opens the pores and allows the body to sweat and rid itself of dirt and harmful toxins. Let us think that spas cater mostly to women, the Ten Street Baths reserve two days a week—Thursdays and Sundays—when only men are allowed to use the facilities. Women have the place to themselves on Wednesdays, and on all remaining days the baths are co-ed. One day admission to the Baths costs \$19, and a month-long membership costs \$113. The Tenth Street Baths are located at 268 East 10th Street, New York, New York 10009; (001) 212/473-8806.

If you're looking for an other-worldly experience, Millefleurs just might take you to where you want to go. Located in New York's increasingly chic TriBeCa (which stands for Triangle Below Canal Street), Millefleurs looks like an Egyptian temple. Not only does the architecture try to embody this lost era when nature provided medicine, but so does the spa's philosophy. The products at Millefleurs are all extracted from fruits and vegetables and the treatments offered



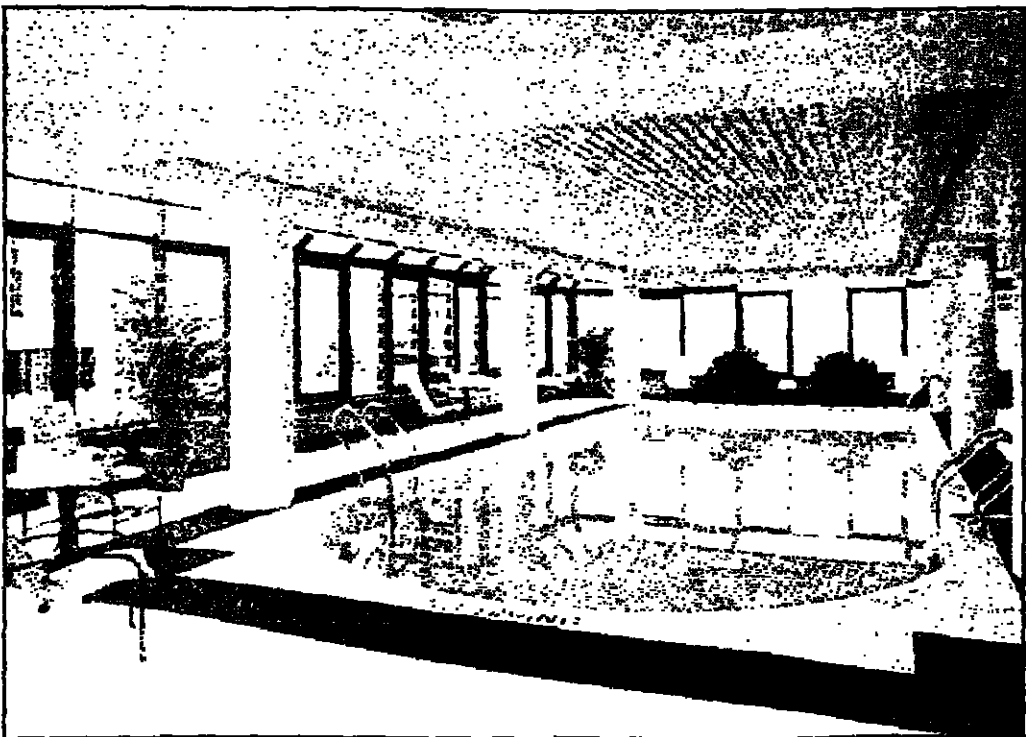
A personal trainer provides workout tips for this spa-goer.

by the spa aim to balance the body's nature. The spa is designed to be a kind of sanctuary for reflection to help guests gain perspective on a situation that may have been unmanageable before they received a treatment at Millefleurs. Millefleurs is located at 130 Franklin Street, New York, New York; (001) 212/966-3656.

Whether or not they look like sanctuaries, these spas all emphasize that beauty comes from within. They market the belief that a toxin-free body and a clear mind will make you a more beautiful person.

Spas are part of the "get back to nature and away from the superficiality of the eighties" trend that is evidenced in everything from recycling to the basic fashion styles that now hang in store windows. Certainly spas, as timeless as they are, seem to be the latest discovery of the virtues for both men and women, tourists and locals alike—and a discovery that's more likely to soothe the nerves than the triple espressos available at the nearest coffee bar.

Vendela-Vida is a New York based writer.



The Peninsula Spa's pool overlooks the surrounding metropolis.

Photos courtesy of the Peninsula Spa



# Shooting up the drug war

## If Israel approaches its narcotics problem as a battle, it can only lose, an American expert tells

Esther Hecht

WHEN Prof. Arnold Trebach came down from his Jerusalem hotel room for a 10:30 a.m. interview, the bar in the middle of the lobby had already been open for half an hour.

"I can buy alcohol, the most toxic chemical, at 10 a.m. in a hotel bar," he said. "But if I were to say I'd like some marijuana, they'd probably call the police."

This belies the myth that the country's drug-control policy is based on a clear rationale; in fact, there are no clear reasons why some substances are legal and others are not, said Trebach, 67, who heads the Drug Policy Foundation, an independent think tank in Washington, DC.

Another myth is that increasing penalties will reduce the drug problem. In the US, research has shown this doesn't help, yet Israel is following in America's footsteps, he said.

Not only does the policy have no rational basis, but it violates democratic principles by infringing on personal freedoms, Trebach said. For example, in the name of the drug war, individuals suspected of having swallowed drugs so as to smuggle them into the country have been detained at Ben-Gurion Airport until they defecated in the presence of a police guard.

Urine testing for drug use, espe-

cially in the IDF, is another infringement of personal liberty, and it is ineffectual, he said. "It gives a false sense of security and proves nothing. There is no substitute for command evaluation: how the person performs as a soldier."

Trebach was here recently for a symposium entitled Drug Abuse and Public Policy: War or Welfare?, held by the Hebrew University's Institute of Criminology.

A more rational approach, he said, is to put more money into education, to teach children what we know about all drugs, that is, all substances that alter moods and give pleasure. These include tobacco, alcohol, tranquilizers, coffee, tea, chocolate, even aspirin.

"We should tell them, for example, that smoked tobacco is one of the most addictive substances, and that they will quickly find themselves hopelessly addicted. But there is no factual basis to the theory that marijuana use leads to hard drug use. The real danger is that marijuana is an intoxicant, and kids must be aware of that," he said. "We have to be as honest about drugs as we are about sex."

The mistake educators make is in presenting drugs as "immediately death-dealing." Youngsters don't take this "information" seriously, he said, because they've already experimented with drugs and know it isn't true.



Professor Arnold Trebach: 'We have to be as honest about drugs as we are about sex.' (Sarit Uziely)

IN THEORY, Trebach is opposed to the paternalistic approach, under which the government penalizes drug users. "It's not the government's business what I put into my body," he said.

Practically, however, he advocates compromise: Israel should follow the Dutch model, maintaining the current prohibition on hard drugs, but legalizing soft drugs, namely, hashish and marijuana, and intervening only when their use is associated with other crimes.

"Dutch kids can get all the pot they want, but use hasn't increased," he said. "The authorities have taken the thrill out of it."

He recognizes that the negative side of such a policy could make Israel the drug mecca of the Middle East, as Holland has become in Europe, but still insists this model is one of the most successful.

As for hard drugs, Trebach

favors a "harm-reduction" model. Addiction should be treated as an illness, and doctors, rather than the police, should be dealing with addicts, offering a range of options, including rehabilitation to those who will accept it. Those who cannot or will not give up their addictions should receive sterile needles, and doctors, advised by social workers, should prescribe opiates - heroin, methadone, codeine and opium.

In Switzerland, 1,000 addicts are getting a wide array of drugs, prescribed by doctors, he said.

Trebach pointed to Liverpool as a successful example of this approach. "It was a city with a tough economic situation, and this program kept it from becoming a disaster," he said. An array of clinics offered needles, condoms, medical treatment, vitamins and antibiotics. When given a choice, he said, 52 percent of addicts chose detox over drugs.

No addict contracted AIDS under the program, nor was there any drug-related homicide, he said.

Trebach teaches criminology and drug policy at American University. He got involved in drug policy by accident in the 1970s when, as an analyst of national crime-control strategies for the Nixon administration, he studied budgets for drug-abuse control. It was then he discovered there was little factual basis for the assumptions underlying the laws and budgets. Since then he has written two books, *The Heroin Solution* and *The Great Drug War*, exposing the fallacies underlying the war on drugs.

Most of the academics who spoke at the symposium agreed with Trebach that the basic assumptions underlying drug control must be reconsidered. This evoked an irate response from Ran Shorer, director-general of the War on Drugs Authority.

## When numbers don't add up

THE year-end drug bash in Goa, India, reportedly attended by hundreds of Israelis, set the public and the authorities tut-tutting again. But how bad is our drug problem?

It doesn't seem to be getting worse, at least in terms of percentages. But the statistics, where they exist, are incomplete at best and unreliable at worst. This emerged at a symposium entitled Drug Abuse and Public Policy: War or Welfare?, held by the Hebrew University's Institute of Criminology.

A survey in the first half of 1995 showed that 5 percent of junior-high and high-school pupils had used some kind of drug - like hashish, marijuana, tranquilizers, amphetamines or heroin - at least once in the past year, and most studies in the past 15 years have showed the same percentage, according to Prof. Giora Rahav, of Tel Aviv University's sociology department.

Among a sample of householders aged 18 to 40, a survey in the same period showed that 7% had used some kind of drug in the past year, he said.

But such surveys underrepresent precisely the sectors likely to include more users: the homeless, the hospitalized, the imprisoned, and youngsters who are dropouts or truants, Rahav said.

And not all those surveyed responded truthfully. One school survey included a question about a fictitious drug to check the respondents' reliability. Half the pupils wrote that they had used it, according to Prof. Rafael Meshulam, of the Hebrew University's School of Pharmacology.

The advantage of these studies, however, is that they are a good basis for comparing the drug problem here with that in other countries, because the methodology is used widely, Rahav said.

As for the number of addicts among the users, Dr. Rachel Bar-Hamburger, chief scientist of the War on Drugs Authority, said we know only about those who come for treatment.

In prison populations, the picture seems to be clearer. Dr. Ya'acov Ziegelbaum, head of the medical division of the Prison Service, said 60% of inmates are drug users, and 20% of these (or 12 percent of all inmates) are addicts.

E.H.

There is no point in differentiating between cannabis and other drugs, he said.

"We can't prove the effects" of the various drugs.

Ariella Segev, head of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's drug-abuse treatment department, joined Shorer in criticizing some of the academics' assumptions.

In Israel, with its strong social structure, one can't speak of drug abuse as a victimless crime, she said. "Here, drug abusers have supportive families; every drug abuser drags down the people around him."

Decriminalization of drugs is

usually not an ideology, but simply giving up the fight, she said.

"We needed the first years of the war on drugs to set up treatment programs and to get public support. It's too soon to say they don't work; we're not ready to give up yet."

The criminology institute's Prof. Leslie Sebba, co-organizer of the symposium, commented afterwards: "Though the voices from the field heard most loudly favor a punitive approach, there are many in the field who believe in other forms of social control, like welfare treatment or medicalization."

## Seek guidance when raising a child alone

DEAR RUTHIE  
RUTHIE BLUM

DEAR RUTHIE, Recently separated - and in the midst of divorce proceedings - I discovered that I am three months pregnant. I am 38 and have no other children. Under no circumstances would I have an abortion, but I fear raising a child alone.

My husband says he will go along with any choice I make - including moving back in with me. I feel this would be wrong for both of us, but am tempted for the sake of the baby.

Pregnant Pauser  
Somewhere in Israel

Dear PP:

It is possible that your pregnancy was your body's unconscious attempt at hanging on to your marriage. Herein may lie the temptation to patch it up. Nevertheless, professional guidance is probably in order.

In the event that you decide to remain alone, you would do well to contact a support group for single parents. Raising a child solo involves special kinds of difficulties which can be alleviated somewhat by the support of others in a similar situation.

In the meantime, you should consult with a family mediator or lawyer to make a contractual arrangement with your husband regarding the financial and other aspects of your joint relations with the child.

No matter how unnecessary legal intervention may seem to you at this point - particularly if your spouse is cooperating with you now - it is impossible to foresee how things will turn out after the actual birth.

Dear Ruthie,

My companion of five years has grown lonely for her children abroad. She would like to spend six months of every year near them. I do not wish to disrupt my life in this way, yet I do not wish to be apart from my companion for so long.

When we began to share our lives, she hadn't indicated that she would want to live part of the time out of the country. I think it unfair to make such sudden decisions without taking my sentiments into account. Can you advise me on how to proceed?  
Companion-in-Quandary  
Caesarea

Dear C-in-Q, Sudden decisions often result from sudden pangs of emotion. Your companion's yearning for her children is not something which should surprise or trouble you. If it is her absence which worries you, however, you might reconsider "disrupting" your life by accompanying her.

If this is not an option, remain behind with your chin up. Being gracious about her departure is more likely to bring about her speedy return. Furthermore, she herself may discover that spending so much time away from her routine - while being "dependent" upon her kids - is not as satisfying as fantasy would have indicated.

Dear Ruthie,

My husband and I decided to sell our house outside of the city, now that our children are grown. We found a charming flat in a marvelous location in the city, which we can afford. To be certain about this purchase, I performed a numerology calculation. According to the number of the address of the flat, it would be a mistake to buy it.

To double check, I then consulted my neighbor, who is a respected fortune teller, to read my tarot cards. She confirmed my fears by warning against this purchase. Needless to say, my husband thinks my head needs examining. Still, this does not assuage my fears.  
In a Flat Fluster  
Mevaseret

Dear Flat Fluster,

The fact that you consulted numbers and cards is indicative of your hesitancy. Though reason has dictated that you move now that your children have grown, your "gut" may be resisting. Neither you nor your husband should underestimate the power of the gut, however.

If you have not come to terms with the decision to uproot, no flat will satisfy you completely. Once you successfully exorcise your fears, on the other hand, even the numbers are likely to add up favorably.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

## 'Old-boys' agree: A woman's place is in the House (of Commons)

SEVENTEEN years after Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female prime minister, women remain very much on the outside of British parliamentary life. Fewer than one member of parliament in 10 is female and only two women sit in Prime Minister John Major's cabinet.

The House of Commons still resembles a boozey men's club, full of hearty laughing, clever point-scoring and childish behavior. The few women dotted around the chamber look assigned to the situation and often appear as the "boys" fight it out among themselves.

"It's not a very attractive place for women to want to get to until it changes," says Liberal Democrat MP Diane Maddock.

"Women do not want to play the game of one-upmanship and so much of what goes on in parliament is men playing a game. They feel good after it but what good does it do for people outside?"

All three of the main parties agree parliament's reputation among voters is at an all-time low and having more women MPs is desirable. But their best efforts are bearing little fruit as the country nears an election to be held at some point within the next 16 months.

Major's ruling Conservatives have appointed just 17 women to stand as prospective candidates at the election for the

651-seat House of Commons, alongside 17 sitting MPs, despite assigning deputy party chairman Dame Angela Rumbold to energize the female masses.

Major was reported to believe that too many second-rate men were being preferred to first-rate women.

"We want to encourage more women who are interested in politics to come forward and go out there and compete," Rumbold says.

She admits this concept is often opposed by grass-roots supporters. Would-be women candidates complain the party is still wedded to the idea that a woman is more useful as a wife than as an MP. Her place is making coffee, not legislation.

The so-called "blue-rinse set" of middle-aged, middle-class women who are the bedrock of Conservatism believe women should support their man, not supplant him, critics say.

Labor, which leads the Conservatives by 30 points in opinion polls, eschewed persuasion for a dictate whereby constituencies with good election prospects were forced to choose their election candidates from all-women lists.

This policy was a major part of Labor's attempts to woo female voters, who tend to vote Conservative. Surveys show Labor would have won the 1992 election by a clear margin if women had mirrored the voting

pattern of male voters.

The all-women policy, agreed at the 1993 and 1994 Labor party annual conferences, was designed to have 90 women Labor MPs in the next parliament. Only 38 of 270 Labor MPs and 19 of 324 Conservatives in the House of Commons are women.

It offered an easy target for Labor's opponents who called it positive discrimination fueled by misguided political correctness. Rumbold believes the policy patronizes women. By mid-1995 Labor leader Tony Blair was publicly questioning its viability and in January a legal challenge by two male would-be Labor candidates killed it off.

An industrial tribunal in Leeds, northern England, ruled that the policy was contrary to the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. Labor immediately scrapped it but 34 women candidates already chosen will not be affected.

Labor women MPs were dismayed by the tribunal's decision as, with an overwhelming Labor victory on the cards, they believe a great opportunity may have been lost to change the atmosphere in the House of Commons once and for all.

The first woman to take her seat in the lower house was Nancy, Viscountess Astor, in 1919 but women MPs rarely grabbed the political headlines until Margaret Thatcher became Conservative leader in 1975. She was prime minister from 1979 until 1990.

Far from improving their lot, many women believe the Iron Lady did little for the female sex. She liked nothing better than mixing it with the boys, often descending to the shouting, finger-waving behavior of male MPs.

Certainly, behavior in the lower house maintained its steady decline during the Thatcher years. "It's a point-scoring debating chamber as opposed to a problem-solving debating chamber," says Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson, who represents a wealthy north London constituency on behalf of the Labor Party, and is often the focus of snide attacks from the Conservative benches.

The Commons' speaker is a woman, Betty Boothroyd, but female MPs have had to become inured to sexist treatment from fellow members and from the press, which concentrates on their looks and clothes rather than their debating prowess.

When Conservative MP Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats at the end of 1995 she came in for particularly rough treatment. A series of male politicians and commentators attacked her as "silly" and "frustrated" and one even accused her of "prostituting her views" around parliament.

As Maddock puts it: "It would be a very different place with more women. We would have less confrontation, we would have more consensus and I think we would get more done."  
(Reuters)

## GAME TIME

HISTORY OF CHESS - by Victor Keats, world-renowned expert

The most comprehensive review of chess history is now available in this 3 volume series by Victor Keats. Most of the text derives from translations from Arabic and Hebrew, with accompanying commentaries, illustrations, reproductions from manuscripts, and pictures of chess pieces and early chess problems. This is an invaluable reference source for collectors, players and everyone fascinated by this ancient game.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, February 29, 1995

## Beisky: Gov't should implement panel proposals

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government still bears responsibility for implementing most of the Beisky Commission recommendations, according to ex-judge Moshé Beisky, who headed the panel investigating the 1983 bank share collapse. His statements came after yesterday's Supreme Court decision overturning the jail sentences of eight bankers involved in the collapse.

Beisky told Israel Radio the court's decision to cancel the prison terms is not surprising considering the age of the former bankers and the long period that has transpired since the collapse.

"Since the time the deeds were done - from 1979 until October 1983 - 12 to 15 years have passed. When you judge someone after so many years, this, along with many other arguments, must be considered," he said.

Beisky emphasized that most of the panel's recommendations

have not yet been implemented and is the main reason why the banks continue to mislead the public.

"The government has not concluded nor implemented the recommendations of the committee, which was appointed to prevent another collapse, which indeed occurred last year. If it had implemented at least part of our recommendations, such as preventing banks from advising customers on which securities to buy and giving loans to people to purchase bank shares, last year's collapse would not have happened," Beisky added.

The major banks' immediate reaction to the court's verdict was that the affair is history and has no bearing on them or their relationship with the Bank of Israel. They emphasized that the bankers involved in the collapse are no longer involved in the banking system today.

## Share options plan to public postponed

Jerusalem Post Staff



Shohat: I want to be sure no one believes the plan is election bribery.

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday announced he is backtracking from his decision to introduce a bill aimed at offering the public shares in state-owned assets.

Shohat explained his change due to mounting criticism that the proposal's timing smacked of election bribery. "I find it essential that no one should have the slightest doubt of that sort," he said.

Shohat added he was convinced the plan is an efficient privatization tool, and said he supports implementation immediately following the elections.

Senior Labor officials, most notably Justice Minister David Libai, recently have criticized the plan's timing saying it might hurt the coalition at the ballots.

According to the bill, known as

"the options plan," each citizen above the age of 18 would receive a voucher booklet to be used for the purchase of shares in state assets which would then be traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Government sources would not disclose the companies' names nor the amount of shares slated for sale through the plan, but he said the overall value of market transactions would be "in the billions of shekels." The bill originally was to be approved by the cabinet last Sunday, but discussion was postponed, apparently due to the day's terrorist attacks.

The options plan was first devised and launched in the Czech Republic, where it worked well, and then was emulated throughout post-communist Europe with varying degrees of success.

## Agnelli bows out as Fiat chief

MILAN (Reuters) Gianni Agnelli, Italy's most powerful businessman, stood down after 30 years as chairman of Fiaton yesterday and handed over the reins of the country's biggest industrial group to Cesare Romiti.

The changing of the guard signaled the end of an era by putting leadership of Fiat in the hands of someone outside the Agnelli family circle for the first time since the 1960s, when Vittorio Valletta ran the company.

Fiat, a huge conglomerate with interests ranging from cars to civil engineering, is one of the largest businesses in Europe which is still under the control of a single family.

The charismatic, silver-haired Agnelli, known to millions of Italians simply as "L'Avvocato" (the lawyer), bid farewell at a board meeting at the group's headquarters in Turin. Agnelli turns 75 on March 12.

In a speech to board members, Agnelli said the company was 14 times larger in terms of annual sales than when he took over 30 years ago and was well placed to compete on the world stage.

## Union Bank profits soar 179%

COMPANY RESULTS  
GALIT LIPKIS BECK  
and RACHEL NEIMAN

UNION Bank of Israel reported a 179 percent growth in fourth-quarter profits to NIS 6.95 million, from NIS 2.49m. in the same period last year.

For 1995, net profits increased 94% to NIS 38.6m., from NIS 19.9m. Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 6%, from 5.2%.

Profit from financing activities before provisions for doubtful debts last year increased 21% to NIS 277.7m., from NIS 229.5m., due to an increase in assets which earned yields and a rise in financial margins.

Provisions for doubtful debts increased 84% to NIS 37.9m., from NIS 20.6m., due to a worsening in the economy's ability to return credit.

The bank's revenues from ordinary and other activities fell 11.4% to NIS 102.3m., from NIS 115.5m., which reflected lower income from security activities, mainly due to the capital market crisis.

NIS 9.87m., from NIS 10.2m. operating expenses remained almost unchanged at NIS 1.47m., and total assets decreased to NIS 2.36b., from NIS 3.07b.

Leumi Industrial Development Bank reported 1995 net profits of NIS 5.1m., down about 18% compared with the previous year. The drop was mainly due to higher taxes. Operating profits before taxes increased to NIS 4m., from NIS 1.5m.

Opal reported 1995 net profits of \$9m., up from \$4m. in 1994. Revenues rose to \$44.7m., from \$24.57m. Earnings per share were \$1.10, up from \$0.61.

Fourth-quarter net profits were \$2.8m., up from \$936,000 on revenues of \$13.74m., up from \$7.9m. Earnings per share were \$0.31, up from \$0.14.

International Technologies (Lasers) reported 1995 net losses of NIS 2m., compared with net losses of NIS 1.65m. last year, on revenues of NIS 24.37m., up from NIS 11.48m.

Fourth-quarter profits were NIS 3.1m. compared with net losses of NIS 3.87m. in 1994, on revenues of NIS 12.1m., up from NIS 4.6m.

Klii Industries reported 1995 net profits of NIS 11.29m., up from NIS 7.34m. in the previous year, on revenues of NIS 245.35m., up from NIS 216.49m. Earnings per share were NIS 1.12, up from NIS 0.74.

Fourth-quarter profits declined to NIS 1.42m., from NIS 5.3m., on a 7.5% drop in revenues to NIS 65.29m., from NIS 70.4m.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Taiwanese computer concern Lite On announced yesterday it is considering establishing a production line here. The announcement was made after a meeting between Lite On international division president Dr. Sing Mao and Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yossi Smir.

Sing Mao's visit was initiated by Dr. Felix Zandman, president of Vishay, the firm which would establish a partnership with Lite On. Lite On, which has an annual turnover of \$1.3 billion, is a manufacturer of computer components and peripherals. The concern has 27 production lines in eight countries.

Rachel Neiman

KAL-Visa is offering a special deal for linking up to the Internet via Nerveion. For NIS 29 a month, the user gets 10 hours of free monthly usage for three months during which time the user's Visa points are debited by 333 points. The credit-card company claims it is the cheapest Internet offer on the market.

Judy Siegel

Nexus messaging system to be tested by 2 US paging firms: US pager firms American Paging and AirTouch Paging have decided to test jointly Nexus Telecommunication Systems' two-way messaging system. The test will be conducted in Chicago from March until August.

The technology provides carriers with the ability to add a low-cost, wireless return network to an existing outbound (one-way) network.

Nexus has a developing and manufacturing alliance with Samsung and Rockwell, as well as a cooperative agreement with Glenayre. The company was founded and is 27%-owned by BVR Technologies.

Rachel Neiman

13 local firms at Frisco high-tech conference: Thirteen local companies are among the 300 participants at US investment bank Robertson Stephens' high-tech conference which opened this week in San Francisco. The companies are Technomatix, Lanoptics, Orbotech, Magic, Vocaltec, Scitex, BVR, Geotech, Opal, Scorpio Communication, Check Point, and VDO Corporation. Evergreen Capital Markets is Robertson Stephens' affiliate here.

Rachel Neiman

Etz Lavud has embarked on a cooperative business venture with Perstorp, one of the world's largest Formica manufacturers. Perstorp will market a minimum of \$5m. of Etz Lavud formica annually to England and Scotland for four years. Etz Lavud's total annual exports were \$10m. last year.

Rachel Neiman

Rotlex signs pact with Nidek: Rotlex and Japanese ophthalmic equipment firm Nidek have signed a memorandum of understanding for strategic cooperation in developing future products. Rotlex said the agreement is an opening into the Japanese market.

Rotlex is jointly held by Rotem Industries and the venture capital fund Teuzza - a Fairchild Technology Venture. The company develops, manufactures, and markets optical lens and contact lens measuring equipment.

Rachel Neiman

## Bezeq profits up 80% to NIS 566m.

JUDY SIEGEL

## Mercantile sacks 2 managers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BEZEQ posted net profits of NIS 566 million last year, an 80 percent increase compared with 1994. Fourth-quarter net profits were NIS 159.1m. compared with NIS 120.3m. in the same quarter last year.

Bezeq reported gross income of NIS 7.159 billion compared with NIS 6.524b. in 1994. The rise was primarily due to the high increase in cellular phone traffic and moderate growth in the use of conventional phones.

Chairman Gurion Meltzer and director-general Yitzhak Kan, however, said telecommunication rates have continued to erode.

Profits per share were NIS 0.78 for NIS 1 in face value of stock compared with NIS 0.44 in 1994. Bezeq invested an unprecedented NIS 1.889b. in infrastructure last year compared with NIS 1.734b. in 1994. The company will also transfer NIS 344.1m. in royalties to the Treasury.

There are now 2,524,000 direct phone lines in the country, a 13.4% growth compared with the previous year. The number of broken lines continued to drop to 1.2 per 1,000 on an average day compared with 1.5 breakdowns per 1,000 in 1994. The average wait for the installation of a line has dropped to 16.8 days, 60% shorter than the previous year.

Meanwhile, ex-president Chaim Herzog has been named a member of Bezeq International's board.

MERCANTILE Discount Bank fired two branch managers who did not follow the bank's credit provision regulations last year. Mercantile general manager Moshe Gavish said yesterday while announcing a 15.5% drop in the bank's net profits last year.

The bank completed the year with profits of NIS 36m., down from NIS 42.6m. in 1994, due mainly to a 121% growth in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 82.7m., from NIS 37.34m. Gavish said the rise in provisions was necessary after the bank's internal control division discovered credit management mistakes at two of its branches.

"Forty percent of the provision clause, amounting to NIS 32m., is due to credit given to small-account holders for the purchase of securities, mainly in two of the bank's branches. We are still trying to regain the debt, but it is difficult since small accounts are involved," Gavish added.

The manager said a total of five branch managers were removed last year since they did not follow management regulations. Two managers were fired because they deviated from credit provision regulations, one was laid off for another reason, and two others were transferred to other positions.

"They deviated from the bank's regulations, not securities law," Gavish said.

**"A fax for you"**  
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.  
15 minutes and you're gone...  
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

**Jerusalem District Electricity Co. Ltd.**  
**Tender No. 9/96**  
8.7/15 kV U/G Cables and Accessories  
Bids are invited for the supply of 8.7/15 kV U/G cables and accessories.  
A copy of the specification and conditions of tender can be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah el-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7, until March 14, 1996.  
Bids should be submitted not later than 12 noon on April 1, 1996.

**PRIME TARGET (מטרה) Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents**  
Date: 27.2.96  
Purchase Price: 149.80  
Redemption Price: 147.51  
leumi pia לרשות כספ

**PRIME פריים Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents**  
Date: 27.2.96  
Purchase Price: 109.05  
Redemption Price: 107.58  
leumi pia לרשות כספ

**NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE**  
**OLD-AGE PENSIONS FOR HOUSEWIVES**

**Housewives are now also entitled to an old-age pension**  
An amendment to the National Insurance Law, effective from January 1, 1996, entitles housewives (defined as married women who do not work outside the home) to an old-age pension.  
Women's entitlement to an old-age pension has thus been expanded to include all women, regardless of whether they work outside the home or not.

**In order to qualify for an old-age pension, housewives must be:**  
- Resident in Israel for the five years prior to reaching the age of 65.  
- Born after December 31, 1930.  
Housewives are entitled to an old-age pension from the day of their sixty-fifth birthday, effective January 1, 1996.

**What is the level of old-age pensions?**  
Old-age pensions are in the amount of 16% of the average wage (NIS 732 in February 1996). Housewives are not entitled to supplements in respect of their husband or children. If your application for a pension is approved, the supplement previously paid to your husband will be stopped as of the day that you qualify to receive a pension.

**Applying for an old-age pension**  
If you were born after December 31, 1930, and have already reached the age of 65, you may apply for an old-age pension by filling out the necessary form, available at any branch of the National Insurance Institute. (A form will be mailed to you if you request one by phone or in writing.) The completed form should be delivered or mailed to the nearest branch of the National Insurance Institute.  
Housewives who have not yet turned 65 should apply for an old-age pension shortly before their 65th birthday.

Public Relations Department  
ביטוח לאומי - הזכות להרגיש בטוח

**BEZEQ, The Israel Telecommunications Corp. Ltd.**

Tender No.	Description of Tender	Date of Submission	Cost of Documents	Telephone
25/96/064/0	6 kV Ampere	26/3/96 (6 p.m.)	NIS 500	02-395616 429

The following general conditions apply:

- Pre-conditions:
  - Parties submitting bids must comply with all laws, including the requirement to keep account books, be an authorized trader, hold valid licenses to trade, and comply with all relevant standard specifications.
  - Willingness to provide a guarantee, as explained in the tender documents.
  - Compliance with the "minimum" conditions, given in the tender documents.
- The tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Ordering Department of the Purchasing Division, 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem (Room 609) Tel. 02-395614/5, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday to Thursday.  
The tender documents will be provided on submitting a receipt of payment for the above sum.  
\* In Israel, payment should be made into Bezeq's Postal Bank account no. 5-311757.  
\* Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi Leisrael. The fee for the tender documents is non-refundable.  
The receipt, with details of your company and authorized trader's number, may be faxed to 972-2-378113. Please phone afterwards (phone numbers as above), to obtain confirmation of receipt of the fax.  
3. Bids should be placed in the tenders box at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem, not later than 6 p.m.  
4. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, or to order the entire work from one source.

Bids sent by fax or telegram will not be considered.

**ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS**

Patrol (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.975	4.950	4.950
Pound sterling (£100,000)	6.815	6.790	6.770
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.320
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.275	0.750
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (28.2.96)**

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates*
U.S. dollar	3.4950	3.5418	100	3.17	3.1000	
German mark	2.1113	2.1454	100	2.12	2.1296	
Pound sterling	4.7307	4.8071	100	4.84	4.7712	
French franc	2.9452	2.9923	100	0.84	0.8584	
Japanese yen (100)	1.8925	1.9181	100	3.04	2.9718	
Dutch guilder	0.4837	0.4920	100	1.25	1.2502	
Swedish krona	0.4841	0.4921	100	0.45	0.4558	
Norwegian krona	0.5462	0.5551	100	0.52	0.5278	
Danish krone	2.2852	2.3271	100	0.53	0.5378	
Swiss franc (100)	0.8819	0.8929	100	0.67	0.6733	
Canadian dollar	2.3324	2.3710	100	2.18	2.2548	
Australian dollar	0.8083	0.8194	100	2.29	2.3046	
S. African rand	1.0094	1.0208	100	1.00	1.0054	
Belgian franc (10)	1.6854	1.7025	100	1.00	1.0054	
Austrian schilling (10)	1.6854	1.7025	100	1.00	1.0054	
Italian lire (1000)	1.6854	1.7025	100	1.00	1.0054	
Japanese yen (100)	1.6854	1.7025	100	1.00	1.0054	
Egyptian pound	1.6854	1.7025	100	1.00	1.0054	
Indian rupee	3.9322	3.9822	100	0.95	0.9406	
Spanish peseta (100)	4.6704	4.9460	100	1.02	1.0206	
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5077	2.5492	100	2.59	2.5922	

\* These rates vary according to deposit  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Bezeq propels market upward

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

SHARES advanced yesterday as Bezeq reported stronger fourth-quarter earnings. Trading for Teva and Koor, designed to match the companies' rises in New York on Tuesday, also helped the indexes forward. The Two-Sided Index closed at 211.38, up 0.78 percent while the Maof Index was up 0.92% to 220.33.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Volume. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and AFTERNOON MORNING.

FTSE up 22 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Another day of steady advances saw British shares finish near the day's highs as consolidation continued to be the market's principal characteristic. Trading lacked much sparkle as prices crept higher through the day, building on initial gains at the opening. The FTSE 100 share index finished 22.3 points higher at 3,738.2.

Dow drops 43 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Late sell programs erased early gains and sent the Dow Jones industrials sharply lower near the close, but they left the broad stock market close to unchanged. The Dow Jones averaged 30 industrial stocks closed down 43 points at 5,506.21, having given up a morning gain of more than 30 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency cross-rates with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FF.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Source: Israel Discount Bank

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, Name, Price, Change, Name, Price, Change.

Key Representative Rates table with columns for US dollar, Starting, and Mark.

NYSE market indexes table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

Other stock market indexes table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

ISRAELI STOCKS IN NY table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

NYSE / AMEX table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

Commodity Trading table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd.

US commodities table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

London commodities table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

Spot market metals (US) table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

New York metal futures table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

London metal futures table with columns for Name, Last, Change.

Commodity Trading Ltd. contact information.

BRIEFS

MONEY MARKETS



# Ajax lands rare treble

**AMSTERDAM (Reuter)** - Ajax Amsterdam beat Spain's Real Zaragoza 4-0 yesterday to win the European Super Cup and complete a rare treble of cup wins.

The Dutch champions, already holders of the European Champions Cup and World Club Cup, added to their silverware collection after a bizarre affair which saw them awarded three penalties and play most of the second half against nine men.

Their goals came through Winston Bogarde after 41 minutes, Finidi George (53rd) and two penalties from Danny Blind in the 66th and 69th minutes.

After a lackluster first period, the game burst into life five minutes before the break, with Ajax winning a penalty after some frenzied jostling in the Zaragoza area.

Frank de Boer, who moments before had been booked - keeping him out of next week's European Champions cup quarter-final against Borussia Dortmund - saw his left-foot effort palmed away by Andoni Cedrun in the Zaragoza goal.

# Branco follows mate to 'boro

**LONDON (Reuter)** - Brazilian World Cup defender Claudio Branco arrived at English Premier League club Middlesbrough yesterday, saying he was looking forward to his "new venture".

The 31-year-old Branco, holder of 83 caps for Brazil and a member of their 1994 World Cup winning team, starts training with the club today and is set to make his Middlesbrough debut in Saturday's home league match against Everton.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson, the former England captain, dismissed talk of Branco being past his best, saying: "There is no problem over his age. I am sure we will see the best of Branco."

Branco, who has signed an 18-month contract with the option of another year, joins fellow Brazilian star Juninho at Middlesbrough, although the £4.75-million midfielder is currently away playing for his country in the South American Olympic qualifying tournament.

Also, Erik Bo Andersen looks set to join fellow Danish international Brian Laudrup at Scottish Premier League club Glasgow Rangers in a £1.2m deal.

Andersen, 24, was the Danish League's leading scorer with 24 goals last season, which helped Aalborg lift the championship for the first time in their 110-year history.

He has won four international caps and is a strong contender for a place in the squad for the European Championship finals in England in June, when Denmark will be defending the title.

Rangers, the Scottish champions, currently lead the Premier Division by three points from Glasgow rivals Celtic, who had also shown an interest in Andersen earlier this season.

# Gretzky revs up the Blues

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** - A veteran team running out of time for a run at the Stanley Cup is getting an aging superstar anxious for another chance at glory.

Wayne Gretzky and the St. Louis Blues may be the perfect fit.

The Blues eagerly mortgaged their future Tuesday night when they traded three prospects and two draft picks, including a first-rounder in 1997, for the man who holds 61 NHL records, and at 35, isn't done yet.

Gretzky joins fellow hockey greybeards Brett Hull (31), Dale Hawerchuk (32), Al MacInnis (32), Geoff Courtnall (33) and Grant Fuhr (33) on the Blues, making a team that is three games above .500 an instant Stanley Cup contender.

Shayne Corson gladly gave up his captain's 'C' to Gretzky.

"It's an honor for me to give it to the best player in the world," Corson said. "I'm just looking forward to him getting here and making a run for the Stanley Cup."

Hull was one of the biggest proponents of the deal. He's dreamed of this for years.

"I know this is the greatest thing to happen to this organization," Hull said. "Now we've got that offensive guy we've been looking for."

"He's going to make everyone else better, so if everyone keeps working, I don't think there's any question we can go in the finals."

Hull said the intangibles alone make this deal a no-brainer.

"I think it's instant recognition," Hull said. "They can't talk about Wayne Gretzky anymore without mentioning the St. Louis Blues and Mike Keenan, and that does nothing but good things for the city."

Beyond intangibles, if he's no longer the Great One, Gretzky is still a Very, Very Good One. He's 10th in the NHL in scoring with 80 points, and his flair for the game makes a grind-it-out team instantly exciting again.

Fans couldn't have known the on-again, off-again deal was truly on this time, but in the two days before the trade, the Blues sold about 2,200 tickets and were fielding calls from heavy hitters looking to lease luxury suites that go for as much as \$140,000.

The Blues are sold out on suites. Still, the interest will help the team recoup some of their investment in Gretzky, who they'll now have to sign. Gretzky is thought to be seeking a three-year deal worth \$21 million, but both parties expect no problems reaching a deal quickly.

"We just think we have enough knowledge, enough experience and enough background to complete this before any danger of his leaving would occur," Blues president Jack Quinn said. "We don't really think that's going to be a problem."

That kind of talk is a big change in philosophy from just a few months ago. Last summer the Kiel Center Partners, who own the team, ordered Keenan to slash the payroll.

The Blues are playing at close to capacity and likely couldn't quickly recoup their investment with gate receipts alone. But a longer playoff run would help. Last season they were eliminated in the first round by Vancouver.

It's been 1986 since the Blues made it past the second round, and their last appearance in the finals was in 1970. But St. Louis is a huge improvement over the Kings, who are struggling for a playoff spot.

"The Kings asked me if I'd like to play in St. Louis, and I told them I'd love to," Gretzky said.

The deal cost three Blues rookies Craig Johnson, 23, and Patrice Tardif 25, prospect Roman Vopat, 19, their fifth-round pick in the 1996 draft and their No. 1 pick in the 1997 draft. That's the future.

But today is what counts for the Blues. And surprise, Keenan said he's probably not through yet, with three weeks to go before the March 20 trade deadline.

"I wish it was that simple," Keenan said.

**Tuesday's NHL Results:** Washington 5, NY Rangers 3; Edmonton 4, Boston 3 (OT); Detroit 6, N.Y. Islanders 2; Pittsburgh 7, Vancouver 4.

# Bulls win 50th, continue record pace

**CHICAGO (AP)** - Michael Jordan scored 35 points and the Chicago Bulls reached 50 victories faster than any team in NBA history, using a strong fourth quarter Tuesday night to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 120-99.

The Bulls (50-6) reached 50 victories in 56 games, one better than the 1982-83 Philadelphia 76ers who started 50-7 en route to a 65-17 season and an NBA title.

Jordan scored 11 points in the third quarter as the Bulls tried to shake the Timberwolves, then scored eight in a 16-2 run as the Bulls went up 98-82 with just over seven minutes left in the game.

Toni Kukoc added 23 points, including nine in the fourth quarter, and Dennis Rodman had a season-high 24 rebounds.

Kevin Garnett, the 19-year-old who played high school ball last season at Chicago's Farragut Academy, scored a career-high 20 points and had eight rebounds. Isiah Rider also had 20 points for Minnesota.

Rockets 105, Raptors 100  
Hakeem Olajuwon scored 35 points, including 15 in the final 6 minutes, and Kenny Smith had his second straight big game to lead Houston to a home win.

Olajuwon blocked five shots and had 15 rebounds, but his work in the final minutes pulled out the game for the Rockets after Toronto used a 14-1 run to lead 90-87 with 5:45 to play. Olajuwon then scored Houston's next eight points for a 95-93 lead with 3:27 left, and Houston led the rest of the way.

Ex-Rocket Tracy Murray had 22 points and rookie Damon Stoudamire had 17 points and a career-high 19 assists for Toronto, which lost its sixth straight.

Smith had seven of his 21 points in the third quarter. He finished one point short of his season-high.

76ers 121, Mavericks 115  
In Dallas, Clarence Weatherspoon scored a season-high 27 points, Vernon Maxwell had 25 and Trevor Ruffin 21 as Philadelphia snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Philadelphia, the worst team in the NBA, completed a season sweep of the Mavs.

The 76ers blew a 16-point lead but got two baskets by Maxwell, a big 3-point shot by Sean Higgins and a key bucket by Tony Massenburg to pull away at the end with its highest point total of the season.

George McCloud scored 30 points to lead the Mavericks and hit eight 3-point shots, including seven in the second half to tie his own NBA record.



**OVER EASY** - Chicago's Michael Jordan goes up for two as Minnesota's Kevin Garnett and Tom Gugliotta look on. (AP)

**Hornets 88, Bucks 84**  
Visiting Charlotte overcame a six-point second period and won with the help of a shot tipped into the wrong basket by Glenn Robinson of the Bucks.

Glen Rice scored 23 points, including two game-clinching free throws with 1:9 seconds left, and Kenny Anderson had 22. Charlotte fought off a late charge by getting four offensive rebounds in the final minute - including the mistake by Robinson.

The Bucks pulled to 83-81 on Sherman Douglas' layup with 1:20 remaining, but Larry Johnson got his own rebound after missing two free throws with 55 seconds left. Rice got another big offensive rebound at 35 seconds and Dell Curry yet another with 7.8 seconds left.

Curry was fouled and hit the first free throw and missed the second.

Robinson then knocked the ball in accidentally for an 86-81 lead.

**Pacers 101, Trail Blazers 87**  
Rik Smits scored 16 points as host Indiana opened a 22-point lead in the first quarter and Mark Jackson had a season-high 15 assists as the Pacers defeated slumping Portland.

Smits led the Pacers with 27 points and Indiana was never seriously threatened as it stretched its winning streak to four. The Trail Blazers lost for the seventh time in eight games since the All-Star break.

Aaron McKie topped Portland with 22 points.

**Cavaliers 92, Warriors 80**  
Danny Ferry scored 24 points as host Cleveland won for the 10th time in 12 games.

Cleveland's top-ranked defense limited the Warriors to their lowest output of the season. Offensively, the Cavs

made eight 3-pointers, tying their team record for 3s in a game with 398.

**East 93, Nets 90**  
Visiting Miami won its fourth straight game, beating New Jersey in a game that ended with Shawn Bradley showing Alonzo Mourning to the floor.

Bradley got the best of Mourning on the court, outscoring him 23-11. But the Heat won the game because the Nets missed three shots in the final minute while trailing 91-90.

**Chippers 95, Spurs 90**  
Brian Williams scored 22 points, including six clutch free throws in the final 25.2 seconds, as host Los Angeles won for only the second time in 15 games.

Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing skid and a 10-game loss streak against the Spurs. The Chippers also improved to 3-3 this season at the Anaheim Arena.

**Nuggets 96, Bullets 92**  
Antonio McDyess had 19 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots and Doug Overton and Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf made critical free throws in the waning seconds for host Denver.

Denver built a 16-point lead midway through the third period but watched it shrink to two in the game's final minute.

**TUESDAY'S RESULTS:**  
Chicago 120, Minnesota 99  
Houston 105, Toronto 100  
Philadelphia 121, Dallas 115  
Charlotte 88, Milwaukee 84  
Indiana 101, Portland 87  
Cleveland 92, Golden State 80  
Miami 93, New Jersey 90  
LA Clippers 95, San Antonio 90  
Denver 96, Washington 92

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
Atlantic Division  
Orlando 40 15 727 71%  
New York 32 22 592 71%  
Miami 27 25 492 103%  
New Jersey 24 31 436 16  
Washington 24 31 436 16  
Boston 19 36 345 21  
Philadelphia 11 43 204 28%

Central Division  
Chicago 50 6 889 -  
Indiana 36 20 543 14  
Cleveland 32 22 592 17  
Atlanta 30 24 458 19  
Detroit 28 26 528 20%  
Charlotte 28 26 519 21  
Milwaukee 20 34 370 29  
Toronto 14 40 259 35

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Midwest Division  
Utah 37 17 685 7  
San Antonio 30 18 698 17%  
Houston 37 20 569 17%  
Denver 23 31 426 14  
Dallas 18 36 333 19  
Minnesota 18 38 292 21  
Vancouver 11 41 212 25

Pacific Division  
Seattle 42 12 778 -  
LA Lakers 34 20 629 8  
Phoenix 27 27 500 15  
Golden State 26 29 473 16%  
Sacramento 24 28 461 17  
Portland 25 31 446 18  
LA Clippers 16 37 327 24%

# Pakistan stronger now - Akram

**KARACHI (Reuter)** - World Cup champion Pakistan is even stronger than it was when it won the title four years ago, captain Wasim Akram said yesterday.

Akram was named man of the match when Ihtan Khan led Pakistan to victory over England in the 1992 World Cup final in Melbourne.

He believes today's Pakistani line-up has more experienced batsmen and a much better bowling attack.

Mushtaq Ahmed has become a very capable match winner for us," said Akram of his leg-spinner. "He is an example of the fact that we have better bowlers than before. Our batting is also more experienced."

Pakistan faces South Africa in Karachi today in its first real test of the tournament after easy Group B games against minnows the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands.

In today's other match, West Indies face Kenya in Pune, India. "I think it will be a very good game," said Akram of the South Africa-Pakistan match. "Our whole team is looking forward to it. We are going to give more than 100 percent tomorrow."

Pakistan includes several key members of the team which won the 1992 tournament, among them veterans Javed Miandad and Saif Malik.

The Pakistanis are relishing playing in front of home crowds. "We are very relaxed knowing the whole nation is behind us," said Akram.

Like Pakistan, South Africa has an unbeaten record in its three outings of the tournament so far.

**Windies-Kenya**  
West Indies, once the most feared team in international cricket, are facing what manager Wes Hall describes as "a very crucial match" against minnows Kenya.

"At any cost we have to win this match, since we have lost four points in the league encounters," the former West Indies fast bowler said.

Hall was referring to his team's five-wicket defeat by India in Gwalior and their forfeiture of the match against Sri Lanka in Colombo because of safety fears after the January 31 bomb blast in the island's capital that killed more than 80 people.

Yet it is a reflection of West Indies' current vulnerability that they regard the Group A match against non-test playing opponents Kenya as such a vital encounter.

Hall said Brian Lara and Curtly Ambrose were fit after suffering stomach upsets.

A big innings by Lara, holder of the world individual records for Test and first-class cricket, will help significantly to inject confidence and conviction into the brittle West Indian batting.

Kenya has lost all three Group A games but they do not believe their latest defeat, against Zimbabwe in an all-African encounter in Patna, India, on Tuesday, will damage morale ahead of the West Indian match.

Asif Karim, Kenya's key slow left-arm spinner, said: "It won't affect us for the West Indies match. We are looking forward to it."

Karim said they were disappointed they did not score as many as they should have done against Zimbabwe, being dismissed for an inadequate 134.

"This is what we need, experience at this level," said Karim. "We did not panic when Zimbabwe took wickets against us but we did not know what to do to get out of the situation."

Karim has been nursing a badly bruised knee but expects to be fit. "It did not trouble me too much and I should be alright for the West Indies game."

Cricket World Cup						
GROUP A	W	L	Pts	W	L	Pts
Sri Lanka	2	0	6	3	0	6
Australia	2	0	4	3	1	6
India	2	1	4	2	1	4
West Indies	1	2	2	2	2	4
Zimbabwe	1	2	2	0	3	0
Kenya	0	3	0	0	4	0

Note: Sri Lanka's record includes a total 4pts awarded after Australia and West Indies forfeited their matches on February 17 and 25 respectively.

# Chicago Story: Phillips retires from Sox; Sandberg wants more

**SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)** - The Chicago White Sox suddenly find themselves needing a leadoff hitter and left fielder after the surprise retirement of Tony Phillips.

Just a month after signing a two-year, \$3.6 million contract as a free agent, Phillips announced Tuesday he is retiring for "family reasons." Phillips, 36, had left camp Saturday to fly home to Scottsdale, Arizona.

"I talked to Tony last night and he told me that at this point, he wants to retire," general manager Ron Schueler said Tuesday. "I tried to talk him out of it, but he said his family means more to him than playing baseball."

Phillips, a 13-year veteran, hit .261 with a career-high 27 home runs for California last season. He has a lifetime average of .266, and only Barry Bonds (635) has scored more runs since 1990 than Phillips (621).

"I'm surprised because I talked to him before he left and he told me he had a great feeling about this team," shortstop Ozzie Guillen said. "But you play baseball for a short while. Your family is there for your whole life. I hope he made the right decision."

Schueler said he might try to fill Phillips' spot by trading for another left fielder or signing a free agent. For now, though, veteran Dave Martinez and Lyle Mouton are expected to share time in left.

"I think we're all kind of in shock because Tony's such a great guy and we all looked forward to playing with him," Martinez said. "But we have guys here that are capable of playing and hopefully, I'll get a chance to play a lot more. I'm looking forward to it."

In Chicago's National League franchise, Ryne Sandberg had a cherry red splotch just below his left knee for his day's work, courtesy of a hard slide into second base.

He also had two hits, one off each of two pitchers, and provided everyone in attendance with recollections of a star who might yet shine again.

Two hits in two at-bats. Not a bad start. "I'm glad he got going that way. A couple of hits, that's just gravy," manager Jim Riggleman said.

Sandberg was unhappy enough about the direction of the organization and the collapse of his marriage that he walked away from a \$7 million-a-year contract - then the game's richest - on June 13, 1994.

Recently remarried and impressed with the team's new leadership, Sandberg seems ready to play some serious baseball, as he did in leading the Cubs to division titles in 1984 and 1989.

His first hit was a line-drive single into center field off Jaime Navarro, the ace of the 1995 staff. His second hit came on a hard grounder in the shortstop-third base hole off Jose Guzman. After the second single, catcher Mike Hibbard threw out Sandberg trying to steal. Sandberg "earned" his scraped leg on the play.

Two hits in two at-bats. Not a bad start. "I'm glad he got going that way. A couple of hits, that's just gravy," manager Jim Riggleman said.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

## CLASSIFIEDS

### RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT:  
Single Weekday - NIS 99.45 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 9.94  
FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE. - NIS 152.10 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 15.21  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY (package) - NIS 234.00 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 23.40  
WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 315.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 31.59  
FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 408.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 40.85  
MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 643.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 64.35  
Rates are valid until 31.5.96.

**DEADLINES:** offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 6 p.m. on Thursday.  
Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

### DWELLINGS

#### General

#### WHERE TO STAY

### DWELLINGS

#### Outside Israel

### HOLIDAY RENTALS

#### HOLIDAY APARTMENTS IN EUROPE

### DWELLINGS

#### Jerusalem

### RENTALS

#### GERMAN COLONY (ITALIAN COLONY) LUXURY 2-5 ROOMS, furnished/unfurnished, Long term possible, "Israbud" Tel. 02-665571.

### REHAVIA, 2 3/4/5-ROOM FLATS,

### SALES

### ITALIAN COLONY- Hildeshmer Hahif

### DWELLINGS

#### Tel Aviv

### RENTALS

#### NORTH, 3, LUXURIOUS, fully furnished, Tel. 03-523-7918, 03-5990150.

### SALES

#### FOR SERIOUS: NORTH, new, 5, 180 sq.m., architectural design, immediate, 03-6993472.

#### 4, LUXURIOUS, + expensive contents, elevator + parking, 1st floor, (municipality) "Girsh" 03-5444351.

#### EXCLUSIVE! OPERA TOWER! 2 high, breathtaking view of sea, \$450,000, KAV-HAYAM, Tel. 03-523-9988.

#### KIKAR-MEDINA, 4 + terrace/ Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 4, very high standard, YALE REALTOR (Miklan) Tel. 03-642-8253.

### EXCLUSIVE!! ZAHALAH 1,000 sq.m.

### EXCLUSIVE!! QUIET NORTH of Tel Aviv!!

### DWELLINGS

#### Sharon Area

### RENTALS

#### FOR RENT!! HERZLIYA Pituhil Golei

#### HERZLIYA PITUAH, CHARMING HOUSE,

#### HERZLIYA PITUAH FOR RENT AND SALE.

### DWELLINGS

#### Haifa and North

### SALES

#### CAESAREA, LUXURIOUS HOUSE,

#### TIVON UNUSUAL HOUSE, Turvo Bir

### SERVICES

#### Tel Aviv

### HEALTH

#### FOR HEALTHY BODY & a happy mind,

### SITUATIONS VACANT

#### Jerusalem

### SALES PERSONNEL

#### WANTED: MARKETING/SALES PEOPLE

### SITUATIONS VACANT

#### Tel Aviv

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#### FORGET THE REST!! We are the best!!

#### AU PAIR FOR wonderful girl, live in,

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# '20% of weddings not Orthodox'

HAIM SHAPIRO

ONE out of every five couples marrying in Israel today does so without going through the Chief Rabbinate, according to figures compiled by Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel.

Hemdat announced the findings yesterday in a booklet *Behira Hofshit Benisumim* (Free Choice in Marriage), which the organization intends to distribute to those contemplating marriage.

The organization bases its assertion on the fact that in recent years, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) figures for Jewish couples married have far exceeded those of the Rabbinate. For example, in 1994 the Rabbinate reported some 21,000 marriages, while the CBS recorded 26,149.

According to Hemdat chairman Prof. Hillel Shoval, the booklet lists and explains the various alternative choices available, including a civil marriage in Cyprus, either with or without a subsequent Conservative or Reform wedding ceremony, marital agreements drawn up by lawyers, and proxy marriages in Paraguay. He said the booklet even includes information on pre-nuptial agreements for couples who plan to have a marriage conducted by a recognized Orthodox rabbi.

Shoval said there were no figures as to who exactly was being married outside the Rabbinate, although it was clear that many were Jews who could not marry, such as a *cohen* and a divorcee,

and immigrants, especially from the former Soviet Union, who could not satisfactorily prove their Jewishness to the Rabbinate.

However, he added, there were also many who could be married by an Orthodox rabbi in Israel, but chose not to do so.

"We believe there is a growing number of perfectly kosher couples who avoid marriage with the Rabbinate, either because they fear possible divorce proceedings if the marriage breaks up, or because of a backlash reaction to the extreme coercion of the Rabbinate," Shoval said.

Echoing his views, Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Committee, said his group, which offers the option of a Reform marriage together with a civil marriage in Cyprus, was seeing more and more couples who could be married by the Rabbinate.

Regev noted that over the past decade the number of those marrying in the Rabbinate has remained static, despite the increase in population. This leads him to believe that many couples are living together, rather than going through any marriage.

"Many choose not to marry at all, because they fear that if they have to get a divorce, they will fall into the hands of the rabbinate. In order to hang on to their monopoly, the rabbinate is actually forcing couples away from family life," Regev said.



Ronarong Nopakun, Thailand's first ambassador here, shares a toast with President Ezer Weizman after presenting his credentials yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

## Burg in US to discuss Jewish assets in Swiss banks

BATSHEVA TSUR

MEMBERS of the US Senate's Banking Committee are to meet with Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg and World Jewish Congress head Edgar Bronfman in New York today to discuss Jewish assets held in Swiss banks since World War II, the agency spokesman said.

The committee, headed by Alfonso D'Amato (Rep.), will hold an unprecedented hearing on the issue next month. Swiss bankers have been invited to testify.

The hearings come on the heels of recent revelations by researchers in Eastern Europe - particularly at the archives of the KGB in Moscow and the Securitate in Bucharest - that Nazis held bank accounts in Switzerland which were apparently taken over from Jewish victims. The researchers also uncovered documents purportedly confirming that records of Jewish accounts and assets had been destroyed by Swiss bankers.

Following the hearings, the intention is to present claims to the Holocaust victims and their heirs.

In their presentation to the committee, Bronfman and Burg plan to raise 20 central points, the spokesman said. They will demand that the banks transfer all documents pertaining to these accounts to authorized persons in the Jewish world and in Israel.

They will also suggest that Holocaust victims and their relatives be allowed to testify on the unsympathetic attitude of the Swiss banks to requests to trace such accounts.

Yesterday, Burg and Bronfman met with heads of the Claims Conference to coordinate positions and strategy.

## First female commander named to head police division

BILL HUTMAN

A WOMAN, for the first time, is to be promoted to police commander and become the head of the police manpower division, as part of a series of top appointments announced yesterday by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shabai.

Dep.-Cmdr. Esther Dominićini is one of 30 officers to be taking new posts. Dominićini, 46, will also be the first woman to join the command staff, which

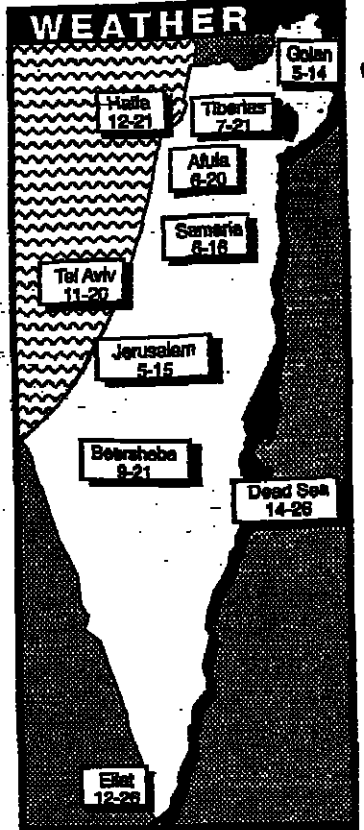
meets weekly to set police policy.

Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, at a press conference together with Shabai, said many of the new appointments would not take effect until after the election, to ensure police work continues smoothly in the coming months.

Other appointments include Cmdr. Sando Mazo as head of

police investigations, Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki to head the Southern District, and Cmdr. Avi Cohen to take over the minister's operational headquarters.

The new appointments were made necessary by a series of recent retirements. "(They) will make the police even more prepared for the difficult period that awaits us ... with the advancement of the peace process," Hefetz said.



Forecast: Hazy and dry. Significant rise in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	4	8	cloudy
Berlin	3	7	clear
Buenos Aires	15	20	clear
Calcutta	24	30	clear
Cairo	16	24	clear
Copenhagen	4	7	cloudy
Helsinki	2	5	cloudy
Hong Kong	11	17	cloudy
London	5	8	cloudy
Los Angeles	58	68	cloudy
Madrid	42	52	cloudy
Moscow	2	5	cloudy
New York	32	38	cloudy
Paris	4	7	cloudy
Rome	5	8	cloudy
Sydney	58	68	cloudy
Tokyo	52	58	cloudy
Zurich	4	7	cloudy

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, seven of hearts, eight of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

## Meretz demands court approve its Shabbat bus service

EVELYN GORDON

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the Transportation Ministry's refusal to allow Meretz to run buses on Shabbat in Haifa.

Meretz Youth has been running buses on Friday nights in Haifa for a year now, but because the line has not been licensed as public transportation, it cannot charge for the service. It therefore applied for a license from the supervisor of traffic, but the latter has still not ruled on the group's request a year later. Chazan therefore petitioned the High Court.

The fact that there has been no decision in 12 months is unreasonable in and of itself, the petition said. However, it continued, the failure to give it a license is also substantively unreasonable.

According to a study by the Road Safety Administration, the percentage of road accident victims who are under 18 on Friday nights is twice the percentage on week days, the petition said. This

shows that public buses are essential to reduce the number of weekend accident victims, it argued.

In addition, since many young people cannot drive, they hitchhike, leaving themselves open to rape and terror attacks. The same dangers face soldiers who must hitchhike back to base because there are no buses, the petition continued. However, these dangers could be reduced by public buses, it said.

Finally, it argued, many adults do not have cars, and have a right to public transportation on Shabbat.

By law, the supervisor can grant licenses for buses on Shabbat if it is necessary either for public safety or for fulfilling the needs of public transportation. The Meretz buses meet both these criteria, the petition argued, and will not offend religious sensibilities, because the routes have been carefully planned to avoid religious neighborhoods.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New IEC chairman still not named

DESPITE reports to the contrary, Israel Electric Corporation has not yet named a new chairman of the board. Treasury Minister Avraham Shohat and Energy Minister Gonen Segev announced yesterday afternoon they had selected Gad Ya'acobi as their joint candidate for the position. Ya'acobi is presently ambassador to the UN.

This is not the first time Ya'acobi's name has been raised but is the first official mention of his candidacy. No date has been set for the final selection of a new IEC board chairman to succeed Adi Amoral, who stepped down last summer. Rachel Neiman

#### Kessar postpones bus fare hike

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar announced yesterday that because of Sunday's bus bombing, he is delaying the 3.3 percent increase in bus fares, which was due to go into effect today.

Kessar said that he was taking the step in consultation with Prime Minister Shimon Peres. He said that there were fears a rise, combined with this week's events, could cause a drastic drop in the number of Egged and Dan passengers. He did not want to burden the traveling public during these difficult times, he said. Passengers who have bought bus passes at the new prices are to exchange them and receive a rebate. Haim Shapiro

#### Minimum wage updated

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir yesterday updated the minimum wage, in light of the recent Cost of Living increase, to NIS 1,828.22 a month retroactive to February 1. Ilim

#### Bromide fire at Ramat Hovav

A chemical fire broke out at a bromide factory in the Ramat Hovav industrial area yesterday, but was quickly extinguished without causing injuries.

At about 10:45, bromide was released while workers were handling piping at the new production facility. The bromide caught fire and a billow of yellow smoke spread throughout the area. Factory safety crews had the blaze under control by the time firefighters arrived. Ilim

#### Armed bandits rob post office

Three armed and masked robbers held up a post office bank in Baka al-Gharbiya yesterday morning and stole NIS 16,000 in cash. The bandits fled in a getaway car that was parked nearby, police reported. Roadblocks were set up but by last night the robbers were still at large. David Rudge

#### Pedestrian killed by car

An 80-year-old Haifa man, Shimon Goldfinger, was hit by a car and killed while crossing the busy highway between the Paz Bridge and the checkpoint junction on the northern outskirts of the city yesterday morning.

Police said it appeared Goldfinger had stepped onto the road from behind a lorry and was hit by the car which was traveling from the direction of the Checkpoint toward Haifa. David Rudge

#### Kahane jailed for sedition

Benjamin Kahane was sentenced to four months in prison and a year suspended for sedition by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Tuesday. In 1992, Kahane published and distributed a leaflet calling for the bombing of Umm el-Fahm after residents of the town killed three soldiers. The court ruled that the leaflet constituted "incitement to rebellion" and "incitement to racism."

It took the prosecution more than three years to obtain the conviction because the first indictment it submitted was dismissed due to a technical error in its drafting. AP

#### Jordanian prince to visit Sheba

King Hussein's cousin, Prince Firaj Ra'ad, will visit Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer today. He is responsible for all organizations dealing with the disabled in Jordan. Ra'ad had met recently with a group of Israeli and German children with cystic fibrosis who toured Eilat, Akaba, and Petra. During the Jordanian leg of the visit, he promised to keep in touch and visit Sheba. The director and heads of 14 departments at the Hussein Hospital in Amman visited Sheba and established friendly ties with its doctors. Judy Siegel

## Panel suggests more rural settlements for Beduin

LIAT COLLINS

THE Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the Beduin Sector recommends establishing more rural settlements for Negev Beduin in addition to the existing towns, according to its report submitted yesterday to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss.

The number, location, size and structure of the villages will be decided on by a committee comprising officials from relevant ministries and representatives of the Beduin communities. The creation of the new settlements will be dependent on the Beduin evacuating state land.

According to the report, the villages will allow the Beduin to continue their traditional lifestyle while removing the principal milestone which has held back the development of the sector. The villages will be populated by Beduin willing to reach a legal agreement with the government over land use. Those not willing to accept the arrangement can turn to the courts, the report states.

MK David Mena (Likud) who chaired the commission said the problems of the Negev Beduin have dragged on too long. "The key to solving their problems is solving the land problem issue. The government must dedicate itself to solving the problems fairly, to put an end to the feeling of neglect and discrimination found among the Beduin and halt the trend towards extreme nationalism," he said.

The commission noted the low number of Negev Beduin employed in the public sector and said this added to the feeling of isolation. It also pointed out that approximately 50 percent of the Negev Beduin receive supplementary income benefits and urged the government to find employment opportunities for the Beduin in the south to solve the unemployment problem.

It said the government does not allocate sufficient professional welfare services to help Beduin in permanent settlements adjust to a new non-nomadic lifestyle. Although it commended physical improvements made to schools, the commission noted that the dropout rate for students is 80 percent between first and 12th grades; the numbers taking matriculation exams each year has dropped from 70% to 55%, and only 33% pass.

The commission found the health situation has improved among Negev Beduin but there is still a large gap between their conditions and those in other Israeli sectors. Judy Siegel

## 'Stateless' Jordanian going home

DAVID RUDGE

ONE of two Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who have spent the last 10 months in a form of stateless limbo after they were expelled from Israel to Lebanon, is to be reunited with his family in Amman today.

Mohammed Joulani, 28, is among 36 Jordanians who are to return under an agreement reached after a year of negotiations between Israel and Jordan. The first group of six are to return today.

Joulani, who had served nearly years in prison for security offenses, was deported to Lebanon last April along with Khamis Khodor, 59, who had served 25 years for terrorist activities. They have spent the last 10 months as "guests" at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura. The Lebanese authorities refused to accept them, and no other country would agree to take them in.

During that time, Joulani became the chess champion of the force. When told he would be going home, he was delighted, although he expressed concern for Khodor who is not on the list of those who will return to Jordan.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said Joulani was handed over to the IDF at the Rosh Hanikra crossing point last night. "We appreciate the efforts of the Jordanian and Israeli authorities for arranging for Joulani to be reunited with his family, and we hope a solution will be found soon for Khamis Khodor," he said. "Because of the problem of tracing his (Khodor) family and his Jordanian origin, he's not on this list, but we are continuing efforts to try and find a home for him."

## Health funds to provide mental health services

THE health funds will be responsible for providing mental health care to their members starting May 1, after the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday approved the inclusion of psychiatric and psychological care in the basket of health services.

For years, the government has been required to directly cover the costs of such services. The transfer was originally to have been carried out on January 1, 1996 - a year after the National Health Insurance System began - but was delayed because the health funds said they were not ready. Judy Siegel

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Judy Siegel